Maine Farmer.

AGRICULTURE MECHANIC ARTS LITERATURE, NEWS, &c.

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Maine Farmer.

S. L. BOARDMAN, Agricultural Editor.

Agricultural Notices.

MAINE POULTRY ASSOCIATION:—Third Exhibition at City Hall, Portland, Jan. 20—26.

MAINE POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY:—Winter meeting at Lewiston, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 22d and 23d.

MAINE STOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION:—Annual meeting at Fre le House, Portland, Tuesday, Jan. 25th, at 3 o'clock, P. M.

ORONO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY:—Semi-Annual Meeting at the College Chapel, Orono, Tuesday, March 14th.

LINCOLN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY:—Special Meeting at Damariscotta, Wednesday, February 9d.

The Policy of the State College.

The question has heretofore been asked by legislators and others: "what is to be the policy of the college in the future; is it to subsist on what it has already received from the State, or is it to make appeals to the Legislature for aid to an indefinite extent, year after year?" It must be regarded by every intelligent citizen, that in accepting the conditions of the National grant in aid of industrial education, the State became a party to a contract with the United States Government, that contract being to establish and maintain "at least one college" of the exact nature of the State College at Orono. Now this college must be maintained, or the money which the State received for its establishment from the general government, amounting to over one hundred thousand dollars, must be refunded. But there is another contract in this matter to which the State is a party, and which it is bound to carry out—a contract with the students who are attending the course of study at Orono; and the State must maintain the college in such a manner as will enable it to give these students what it has promised them, "a thorough, liberal and scientific education," or it must close its doors, and say to them: "The State has compelled us to break our contract with you, and you must go home." We do not believe the State is prepared to take either one of these steps, but we do believe it is bound to maintain and support this college. The State may ask, "What is to be its policy in regard to its future demands upon us?"—the question being a pertinent one, and one demanding a moment's notice.

In the first place the National Government said to the States taking advantage of the educational grant "you must build your own buildings; no part of the money we give you, can go for this purpose." Nothing is plainer then, than that the State must provide necessary buildings. But how many? Is the college to go on year after year, asking for appropriations to build useless buildings, just to give good jobs to contractors? Not at all. The Trustees have settled upon this policy in regard to the needs of the college in this respect:—Buildings sufficient to accommodate two hundred students must be provided. The present force of instructors can have under their charge, this as well as a smaller number; two hundred being as large a number as can profitably be gathered in a single institution. When these buildings have been provided the limit will have been reached, and no more will be asked for in this direction. What is now most imperatively needed is a building for college purposes; to give larger recitation rooms (demanded by the increasing classes), library and cabinet apartments, lecture room, chapel, &c. The collections are now crowded into small quarters, and the students are obliged to recite in close rooms, to the positive detriment of the health of instructors and pupils. A farm house is needed—situated near the barn—that the present farm house may be taken for students' rooms. Beyond these imperative needs, there will be nothing to ask for in the way of buildings.

So far as instruction is concerned, it may be said, the force of professors sufficient when the classes were small, is entirely inadequate now that they are larger, and that more branches are taught. It has been necessary, during the past few years, for the State to supplement the fund of the general government to a small extent, in order to cover the expenses of tuition; and this it will be expected to do until an addition is made to this fund by Congress, a thing which is very likely to be accomplished at no distant day, the attention of Government having heretofore been called to this very point. Our State cannot afford to be behind other States in the matter of the support of institutions of this character, and its standard cannot be kept up unless means are provided to supply the best order of talent in the board of instruction, and to furnish professors for all the branches of learning demanded of the college. In its early days, the income from the National fund was not all used for purposes of instruction—now that the scope of the college has been enlarged, and additions made to its faculty, a larger sum is required to meet it, and this the State must furnish or take a backward course. These points comprehend the settled and final policy of the Institution, and the board of management of the college have thus intimated in their report soon to be laid before the Legislature. May the members in their wisdom, take a broad, far reaching and judicious view of this whole subject, and decide it in the interests of the people of the State, both for the present and the future.

State Poultry Exhibition.

We again wish to remind our readers specially interested in the matter, that the indications now point to a larger and more successful exhibition of the Maine Poultry Association, in City Hall, Portland, 20th—26th inst., than has ever been held in the State—which is saying a good deal, when one calls to mind the splendid display of last year, which crowded almost every part of the large halls and ante-rooms. With a more liberal premium list than ever before, with officers who have gained experience in the past that will be of good service to them during the coming exhibition, and with a large number of breeders, fanciers and others, more or less interested in the beautiful and useful feathered tribes which the liberal prize list will call out—we may be sure of an attractive and interesting display in every class and division of the exhibition. And even if people are not directly and financially interested in poultry raising or breeding, we know of no entertainment that will afford a more interesting study, give more satisfaction, or leave upon the mind a better impression. A display like that witnessed last winter, is better than all the circuses ever invented, and the music excels that of the best concert we ever attended! By all means let City Hall be filled during the session of this "convention"—and let all who wish for genuine, hearty and positive amusement and instruction combined, be sure to be present.

Cleanliness and Care of Cows.

A Picture of Dutch Farming.

We are reminded by reading the article by Mr. Brown in our present number, on the care of cows in winter, and on giving more attention to cleanliness in this particular, of the description given by Col. Waring in his admirable work "A Farmer's Vacation," of a cow stable which he visited in North Holland, upon the farm of Mr. Wouter Sluis; who as our genial author informs us was one of the good farmers of the region, "but did not appear to be, nor did he claim to be better than scores of others," whose places were visited in that section. This farm was carrying "twenty-five immense Dutch cows, nearly as large as Shorthorns, deep in the flank, large in the udder, and with conspicuous frames, the type of great milkers; twenty similar cows, dry, and being fattened for beef; twenty-four heifers of two and a half years and less; one hundred and sixty sheep, five horses and forty swine"—the whole being estimated at the equivalent of ninety cows of the largest size. But what we wish to speak of particularly in this connection, is the attention given by these Dutch farmers to the care of their cows, the cleanliness of their cow stables, and the attachment they manifest for their animals. In describing the quarters where the cows on this farm were kept, Mr. Waring says he entered a large apartment, the walls of which were neatly whitewashed, and the little windows hung with white curtains. Along each wall was a pavement of clean brick work, and next to this a whitewashed gutter; then came a flooring of handsome old Dutch tiles well laid, then two rows of upright posts, between which was a wide passage-way leading the whole length of the hall. There were also several tables on which were light utensils and some articles of pottery. Col. Waring says: "We congratulated ourself on seeing the largest and cleanest dairy we had ever met with, but, on a second look, it seemed very large for a dairy, and the absence of milk, and of the evidence of daily use, led us to enquire the purpose of such a grand hall. We found to our surprise, that we were in the cow stable—but for the stanchions and tying-posts, and the gutter behind the stalls, there was nothing to indicate the use intended." Think of this for a barn, ye Maine farmers, who let your cows shiver and suffer in buildings not affording so good a shelter as a thatch hovel, and a Dutch barn at that—and then let us hear no more boasting about our superior farming and the care of our farm animals! But this is not all. Separating this cow stable from the office of the establishment—a room in which was a handsome library of scientific books, various old objects of interest, and a visitor's book in which was inscribed names of travelers from all parts of the world—was a large glazed door, and opposite to this was a huge fire-place, and over this a large mirror. "And here," says Mr. Waring," Mr. Sluis showed us how he sits in winter toasting his shins before the fire, and looking up from his paper now and then to enjoy the reflected view of his two rows of fine cattle, which seem almost members of the family." Can the picture of any farm home be more complete? Who would refuse to drink buttermilk, or eat Dutch cheese from such a place? And if a tithe of this cleanliness and attention were bestowed by our farmers upon their milch cows, think you they would not get fully paid for it all?

Preparations for Another Season.

Among the manufacturing companies which have already commenced operations for the approaching season, the manufacturers of the Meadow King Mowing Machine have perhaps began with more force, than that of any similar concern. We learn they have already sufficient orders ahead to keep their works running until after the harvest of 1876; while both abroad and at home their sales are yearly increasing, and they are putting new machines into new sections of the country in large numbers. Last season a few Meadow King's were sold in California, and they proved so satisfactory, especially in cutting their stout "alfalfa" clover, that this year they will sell large numbers in that State, the first of which have been already shipped. In Wisconsin, Minnesota and other Western States, as well as in this State and the Provinces, the sales of this machine last year, largely exceeded that of any previous season, and in large sections of New England this mower seems to take the lead of all other kinds. The financial ability and past success of the company, is a sure guarantee of its future standing and achievements. Hon. Fred Atwood, Winterport, represents the company for this State and the Provinces, and he will be happy to forward circulars of information, or answer all enquiries in regard to the same.

Editorial Notes.

It is gratifying that a movement has been started in New York city, to erect a memorial to Henry William Herbert, better known as "Frank Forester," whose books on horse and horsemanship, field sports and natural history, are so well known in this country. We sincerely trust it may prove successful, and that a fitting memorial to this able and genial writer will be erected to his memory.

The winter meeting of the Maine Pomological Society will be held at Lewiston, Tuesday and Wednesday, February 22d and 23d; the exercises consisting of the reading of papers and discussions, and the revision of the list of fruits for the State by the special committee appointed for that purpose. A full programme for the meeting will be announced in due time.

A meeting of the executive committee connected with the management of the late State Fair, was held in this city on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, for the purpose of closing up the business of the year. We learn that the receipts of the exhibition failed to pay expenses by some three or four thousand dollars, which amount has, however, been raised by the managers, and the premiums and liabilities paid in full. A complete statement of the financial condition of the State Agricultural Society may be expected at the annual meeting, which takes place sometime during this month.

Communications.

For the Maine Farmer.

Papers on Bee-Culture---IV.

Suggestions about Making Hives.

In this paper I propose to give my experience in making hives so that those about commencing the business of bee-keeping, or those who desire a differently formed hive from that they are now using, may gain, perhaps, some useful advice.

In the first place I should use none but the movable frame hive; but I am aware there are those that have not, and do not intend to handle their bees other than to hive them properly, furnish them with ample box-room for surplus honey, and leave them to prosper or not, as circumstances may favor. This class of bee-keepers, I am aware, is much the largest at present, but I am also confident that within five years the box hive will have become one of the things of the past, and frame hives will have generally taken their place.

Now don't buy into any patent affair, for you will only get humbugged, and afterwards awake to the fact that you have spent your hard earned cost for naught. Neither make any of those complicated, costly machines that would puzzle the brains of a Connecticut clock-maker to put together after the thing was blocked out. What is wanted is simply a box of the right size and shape, constructed of good lumber, thoroughly seasoned, securely nailed together and painted outside. In this latitude bees require about 2000 cubic inches in the main hive. After trying various sizes and shapes, I constructed a hive from a model of my own, and were I to use a box hive simply, should still use this pattern. This hive is made of inch pine boards, planed on both sides, and made 12 inches square by 14 in height, inside measurements. The front and back pieces are got out 12 inches wide and 14 inches long. The upper end of each is rabeted out five-eighths of an inch in depth, half the thickness of the board. Across the top of the hive, (their ends resting in the space formed by rabeting) are nailed eight bars, one inch wide by three-eighths of an inch in thickness, to which the bees will attach their combs. These are arranged so as to give about a half inch space between the bars, so that the bees may pass up to the upper story of the hive; and it will be noticed their thickness allows a space of one-fourth of an inch between the upper side of the bars and the boxes, when placed upon the hive. Through the centre of the hive, at right angles with the bars, are placed two sticks four inches apart, to support the combs. In the centre of the hive in front is bored an inch hole, also at the bottom a place is cut three inches long by three-eighths of an inch in width, for the egress and ingress of the bees. Around the hive, three-fourths of an inch from the top, a moulding is nailed, mitered at the corners. This may be one and one-fourth inches in width. It supports the cap of the hive, which is made large enough to shut on easily, covering the whole top of the hive. The cap if made about eight inches in height, gives its best appearance; but for convenience in placing two sets of boxes, ten or twelve inches in height will be found necessary; the height, of course, will be regulated by the size of the boxes used. Formerly I used to make the tops of the caps flat, using a single width of board, but lumber is scarce that will work fifteen or sixteen inches in width, and a flat top, unless the top covering was in one piece, is liable to let the water from rain and snow in. A better plan is to make the top roof-shaped, rising in the centre some two and one-half or three inches, and battening the crack formed at the junction of the ridge, with a piece of board two inches wide.

If one desires a chance to observe the operations within the hive, means may be provided by inserting a pane of 7x9 glass in the back of the main hive. This should be covered with a blind to exclude the light. Nail the whole together firmly, using 12 penny finishing nails, and paint with two coats of paint. I have used Averill's chemical paint, and would recommend this in preference to any ever used.

In making hives it is cheaper to get up a number at once; beside if the lumber is all fitted up by machinery, as it may be with much less cost than by hand, a much better job will be the result than when made entirely by hand. One requisite in the construction of hives should be heeded: that is, to have no holes or corners left where worms can find a hiding place and the bees cannot follow. Use sound lumber and make tight joints, and have them all of one pattern, so the caps and boxes will suit any hive. For various reasons it is well when the apiary consists of quite a number of hives, to have the hives painted several colors, in order that hives near each other may be of different shades of color. The utility of this will be obvious to the experienced bee-keeper. Let two hives of the same color and appearance be placed the one four or five feet in front of the other, and during windy weather in the busy season, hundreds of bees from each will mistake their hives and be slaughtered. This became apparent to me last year, and to prevent this loss of bees a piece of board was kept standing by one of the hives, which soon became a distinguishing mark to the bees, and they readily found their own hives. It is evident from this experience that some care is necessary in painting and placing the hives in the spring. Directions for making a frame hive will be the subject of the next paper.

Wilton. L. F. ABBOTT.

For the Maine Farmer.

What shall we do with Straw?

I have three or four tons of oat and barley straw, and the straw of fifty bushels of wheat, save what has been used for bedding the stock thus far this winter. What shall I do with it? Will it pay to feed it? If so, to what?

The above are simple questions for a farmer of thirty years' experience to ask, and yet I ask them in all candor and sincerity. I have asked myself the same many times and got different answers, partly because the queries are put under various circumstances, and partly, perhaps, because I have some times taken a more extensive, or rather extended view of the matter. There are exceptions to all rules. For instance: when winter closed in upon us in 1871—the winter following the terrible scourge of grasshoppers—and we found ourselves with the least stock we thought we could get on with, and not half enough for what we had, it paid us to feed meadow hay and straw. So in answer to my first question I got "feed it with meal and roots."

This year there is more hay than stock, and the only consideration is one of economy; so the questions return again. My cows are eating all the good, early cut hay they want; three quarts each of sugar beets at night, and one quart of barley meal and two of shorts in the morning; are driven to water in the cellar twice a day, and immediately tied up in a warm barn bedded with straw and left to furnish butter stock, and we are making now, Jan. 1st, five lbs. per cow, that sells readily for 40c. a pound, and the cows are to come in in March. Will it pay to feed straw to them? I have a nice yoke of fat oxen that are doing my work, and it will take them through this week to finish it. The days will be longer then, the steers gaunted up a little, and with the warmer days and decreasing appetite, taking into account the objective point in rearing oxen, viz.: the beef they will make, will it pay to give them any more straw than they want to lie upon? Then there are the young cattle—why everybody, almost, says they will do well enough on straw. Well, let us see: The steers are designed to make at least ten hundred of beef each, and to do that with good economy will it pay to turn them from the barn in the spring no better than they came to it in the fall, if indeed as good? Then the heifers are with calf, and are to make dairy or stock cows, or both, and in the time when they ought to be growing, and the extra draught on the system at this particular time, will a diet of good, sweet, early cut hay be any too good; or if a little something in addition is given will it not pay just as well and even better, if in addition to the hay, than if with straw, where the virtue of the roots or grain is expended in getting the straw through the animal? Then there are the sheep that pay a better profit than any other stock upon the farm, and drop their lambs in March; surely, they cannot eat the straw; so I think I shall continue for this winter, at least, to put the straw under and not inside the cattle; in the mean time hoping to hear from your experienced and observing correspondents upon this matter.

I have thought frequently while passing over this part of the State, that if half the colts that are seen could be put upon a straw diet exclusively, it might pay in the end, especially if after the animals had played out their remains could be manufactured into superphosphate. Please, gentlemen contributors and readers, say something on this question. *Straws* tell which way the wind blows. MT. VERNON.

For the Maine Farmer.

More about Dogs and Sheep.

Sixty Years' Experience and Observation.

Your correspondent from Oxford, S. C. T., writing "More about Dogs," has got off such ridiculous nonsense, and so contrary to my experience, that I am inclined to reply.

I have been well acquainted with the damage done by dogs to sheep for more than sixty years, during which time I have known of several hundreds being killed, and not one cent of damage paid that I ever heard of. In my native town of Sumner I well recollect several cases in point, two of which I will mention.

A near neighbor of mine early one morning found two dogs killing his sheep. He seized his gun, shot one, and followed the other home. I think they killed thirty-four sheep. He told the owner of the dog that he caught him killing his sheep, caught him in the very act; but he replied that he knew his dog never touched a sheep—it must have been the other dog, for his could not be set on to sheep. "Why," said he, "attempt to set him on, and he will drop his tail, run into the house and under the bed." Although he knew the young man who lost the sheep to be a worthy citizen, of strict veracity, and comparatively poor, while he was rich, yet he would not believe any thing against his dog, nor would he pay a cent for all the damage he had done. He was a pious, good man, a member of the church, justice of the peace, postmaster and town clerk, the "first man in town," or at least he thought he was; and I had ever believed him the last man in town to see a neighbor suffer as he did.

The owner of the dog that was killed said he knew his dog never touched a sheep, and threatened to prosecute the party for killing him. A few days after that the squire got up his sheep in the morning, and while eating his breakfast, his dog killed his best sheep, and took his breakfast from it too. He then killed his dog, and he and his family ever after kept the matter as still as death.

The other case was that of a neighbor who owned a small, but very choice flock of sheep, eleven in number. On going to his barn one morning he found all his sheep dead. A man living two miles distant, kept a hound for fox hunting, and that morning the hound came home bloody. His owner, thinking he had killed some valuable game, took his gun and snow shoes, put him upon his back track, and followed him directly to the dead sheep, and found Capt. H. skinning them. The Captain told him it was his dog that had killed them, and he ought to shoot him at once; but he replied that he would not do it; and the Captain said, "If you don't shoot him, I will." The man made the insulting reply, "I won't shoot him, and if you do, I will shoot you."

That is the kind of pay farmers generally get for sheep killed by dogs. How would S. C. T. like to take such pay for a nice flock of sheep? He writes as if all the sheep were killed in broad daylight, before witnesses for the owners of the sheep; but all the facts are otherwise. I had twenty-one of my very best sheep killed in a single fall, worth at least one hundred dollars, and never saw a dog among them, or knew whose dogs they were. This writer says triumphantly, "but when is a sheep so well sold as when killed by a neighbor's dog;" and adds, "I have known $15 collected for a single sheep," &c. I don't believe that on an average one cent apiece was ever paid for sheep killed by dogs in the United States. S. C. T. talks as if it was the easiest thing in the world to prove what dogs killed the sheep. Don't he know any better? I do not believe satisfactory proof can be produced, in one case in a hundred. No man will pay a cent without proof, and how is a man going to prove it when the act is done in the darkness of night, while he and other honest people were in bed and asleep? He says, "every man is liable for the damage his dog does." I reply, within my knowledge the majority of dog keepers are so poor that even the price of one sheep cannot be collected of them. I close with the wish that a tax of five dollars could be levied on every dog in the country. A. CUSHMAN.

Sherman.

For the Maine Farmer.

Letter from Oxford County.

The weather for the past three weeks has been very mild—more like April than December. The winter commenced quite severe, and we had some fifteen inches of snow, which made good sleighing, and business started lively, but warm weather soon put a stop to this, and the spring-like days and nights left the fields bare, with no frost in the ground, so that ploughing could be done as well as in May.

Potatoes are scarce and will be high before spring. Hay is not very plenty, and is selling from $18 to $20 per ton. Oats are worth 60 cts. per bushel, while western corn is worth 97 cts. per bushel. Corn was planted last season to a greater extent than for several years, and it looks now as though less money would be sent off for corn and pork hereafter, than for several years past, which is a very hopeful sign, and shows that railroads do not bring much money to farmers if they do bring corn. Now since it takes money to buy corn, farmers begin to to think they can raise it cheaper, as they used to several years ago. Lumbering would be very brisk if we had snow, for there are some seventy-five men, with teams to correspond, now idle, waiting for snow. Sanborn & Emery have 5,000 cords of oak cut on the "Boston Hill Lot," which goes to their mills in this town, to be manufactured into shooks. The farmers of this town are trying for a cheese factory, and if some correspondent, through your columns, would kindly give us a little good advice, it would be thankfully received. C. B. SMITH.

Denmark, Jan. 5.

For the Maine Farmer.

Androscoggin County Ag'l Society.

The members of the Androscoggin Agricultural and Horticultural Society met Jan. 1st, 1876, in the municipal court room in Lewiston. Meeting was called to order at ten o'clock, A. M., by the President, Nelson Ham, Esq. After discussion on by-laws, quite a number of new names were signed and the membership paid. The report of the Treasurer was read and accepted. Proceeded to choice of officers and elected the following: President, Dr. A. Garcelon; Vice Presidents, E. Ham, Lewiston, John B. Jones, Auburn; Secretary, W. R. Wright, Lewiston; Treasurer, D. Farrar, Lewiston; Agent, Jas. Clark, Lewiston; Librarian, D. Farrar, Lewiston; Trustees, Wm. F. Goulding, I. V. McKenney and A. H. Gamage of Auburn, G. D. Potter, Webster, V. H. Sprague, Greene, D. J. Briggs, Turner, C. H. Cobb, East Poland. Voted that a committee of three be appointed to see what measures can be adopted to secure some suitable place for exhibition of stock at our agricultural fairs and such other purposes as may conduce to the interests of the association. Committee consisted of Messrs. A. Garcelon, Z. A. Gilbert and I. V. McKinney.

W. R. WRIGHT, *Sec'y.*

For the Maine Farmer.

A Glance at Both Sides.

The opponents of dogs have had their say so often that it is refreshing to read a little of that kindly feeling of nature which "makes the whole world kin," as expressed by a correspondent in a late issue of the FARMER. Moreover, the common sense and justice of his argument are admirable. As a keeper of both dogs and sheep, permit me a few words of my own upon this subject.

It must be admitted that every man has a right to keep sheep, provided they do not go into his neighbor's enclosure and eat his beans and do other damage. If they do, the owner of the sheep is liable for the damage. And on the other hand, every man has a right to keep a dog, provided that he keep him at home, or becomes liable for any damage the dog may do his neighbors. This is natural law, and most people will abide by it, and pay the damage done by sheep or dog. But unfortunately for the credit of our race, there are some men who will not respond; and these are usually, the very men whose animals make all the trouble. The natural law, then, gives the right to the injured party to take such care of the brutes doing the mischief as will check it now and stop it in the future.

It would be courteous to take them back to their owner once, with a warning; if found a second time, natural law will bear any man out in shooting the offender. But here comes in a new element: the owner of the dog (if dog it be), will never be able to see the justice of the act—or he would be more just than to allow his dog to annoy his neighbor. He bristles up and says, "You shoot my dog and I will shoot you, or burn your barn;" either of which would be unpleasant, while if you shoot him, you will feel worse than if you had lost a sheep. So civilization steps in, saying, "My friends, you must not quarrel, and make savages of yourselves. Let us see what can be done to satisfy both of you. You, Mr. Dogowner must keep your dog at home. If you allow him to worry Mr. Shepherd's sheep, you must take the consequences, if detected. You, Mr. Shepherd, must keep your sheep upon your own land, and you may drive your neighbor's dog away, if he comes to see you or your flock. If he does you any injury, come to me, and I will see you righted."

Now, this is all very good law, but it does not work in practice, for the damage is done in the dark; and to advise that retribution should be done in the same way would reflect upon the writer's reputation as a peaceful man. Hence the effort to tax dogs, both for their suppression and to make a fund from which to pay losses. I sympathise with one of your correspondents who was ridiculed in the Legislature for offering a dog-law for the consideration of his augus associates; for I had once a similar experience, when I proposed a tax upon stallions with a view of ridding the State of mongrel and scrub-sized horses. I accepted the situation philosophically, saying to myself, "This is according to the genius of our institutions which permit the largest kind of liberty." And so it is with dogs, with the slight exception that it is another class of men who would have them taxed.

My conclusion is that the only remedy lies in taxing the sheep. This tax may be collected by the State or by the county authorities, and form a fund from which to make good all losses caused to sheep owners by the ravages of dogs. In other words, the sheep are insured, so that one element of uncertainty is eliminated from the problem. The farmer has only to make a slight arithmetical calculation, which shall include this item of insurance, when he can with certainty determine the question whether or not it will pay for him to keep sheep.

Togus. WM. S. TILTON.

For the Maine Farmer.

Cleanliness of Cows.

Every one is interested in having sweet and pure milk, as it is an article of use in nearly every family in the whole country. I heard a merchant in Bangor remark the other day, that he had several times changed his milkman in trying to have sweet milk, but had not succeeded yet; all seemed scented with the droppings of the cows. Having recently entered several of the stalls where cows are milked, I thought it no wonder the milk tasted of the barn; and it occurred to me that a reform here is loudly called for. If those furnishing milk for the market could witness the cleanliness of milk cows in Holland or the island of Jersey, they would at once proceed to clean and keep clean their milch cows and the stables in which they are kept.

As "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," I will give for the benefit of the readers of the MAINE FARMER a few suggestions about keeping cows clean. Undoubtedly the surest way would be to have a separate stall for each cow, about 7x10 feet, with a litter of straw often enough to absorb all liquids and cover the droppings of the cow. This is the way Mr. Cochrane of Canada, the noted breeder of Short Horns, stalls his cows, and the average value he sets upon them is more than a thousand dollars each. In this way he secures a large amount of dressing; but this method is too expensive for common farmers. If the following improvements are adopted, cows will not need to be often washed and scrubbed to be free entirely from their own filth. But if, in any case it should fail, the card, and if need be, soap suds and the hand sponge or broom, should be adopted. I allow no droppings to remain attached to my milch cows.

Cows to be clean, should stand on a floor elevated about four inches, and just long enough for all the voidings to drop off the elevated floor where she stands. The crib should be closed so that she cannot stretch forward for her fodder. The crib may be of good width. If there should be a difference in the length of the cows, it may be adjusted by nailing short pieces of boards to the bottom stancheon piece, and extending towards her feet just far enough to make her stand back and reach for her hay. The length of the pieces of board used would vary from 18 to 20 inches, according to the depth of the stancheon piece and the length of the cow. A piece of plank nailed horizontally to the stancheon piece and towards the cow's feet, would do just as well.

Another improvement in keeping milk pure while milking, is to nail a piece of board on the under side of the milk stool and extending far enough to make a bench on which to set the pail while milking. A long bench, with room for the pail to set on will do, but not as well as a board nailed to the bottom of the bench, because the pail bench in this way is lower than the stool. Then nail a board on one of the lower girths behind the cows, on which the pail may be set if occasion requires, and you will not have the good woman of the house complaining of dirty milk pails. If these improvements are adopted no complaint will be made about impurity of milk by the mixture of cow's filth. DAVID BROWN.

Hampden.

For the Maine Farmer.

Duchess of Oldenburg vs. New Brunswicker.

In reply to Mr. Gilbert in the FARMER of December 4th, I would say that Mr. Frank Sharp of Woodstock, N. B., propagated the Duchess of Oldenburg apple for the first time in New Brunswick, and it was his intention to use the synonym given by A. J. Downing, viz.: "New Brunswick." It is known by no other name in N. B. I visited Mr. Sharp's orchard two years ago, and there I saw this apple in full blast. The conversation was concerning this fruit, and Mr. Sharp did not object to my calling it the Duchess; neither did he say that it originated with him as a seedling.

About every man you meet in Carleton county, N. B., that knows anything about fruit, will tell you that the New Brunswick apple was a seedling of Mr. Frank Sharp's. To obtain a complete description of this apple I refer the reader to A. J. Downing's work on the Fruit Trees of America, page 149; and for further information I should like to hear from Mr. Frank Sharp himself, about his seedling. HENRY TILLEY.

Castle Hill.

For the Maine Farmer.

Jottings on Dairy Matters.

The Grain of Butter.

In the FARMER of Dec. 11, I notice that Mr. Jameson criticises an expression found in my last article. I said I could work my butter by the rolling process without "breaking the grain." Perhaps I spoke carelessly, and yet I thought I used the language of dairymen, and used it in a way that dairymen would understand. Mr. Willard, in his Practical Butter Book—which, by the way, every dairyman should *study*—says, "When the *grain* of butter is injured, the butter spreads like grease, and the more it resembles grease the more the grain is injured. Good butter that has a perfect grain, will not stick to the knife that cuts it. Butter that has no grain is brittle, and when broken presents a jagged surface. Care, therefore, should be taken not to spoil the grain by overworking." Your correspondent asks, "What is the grain of butter? Can that grain be broken? What is its appearance before it is broken; and what after it is broken?" I think this quotation from Mr. Willard will answer his last question. To answer his first question I should say, the *grain* of butter is that consistency or firmness, that firmness of texture, that tenacity which well worked butter has, and badly worked butter lacks. This is my idea of the "grain of butter." I do not suppose that Mr. Willard or any other dairyman refers to the globules that exist in the milk, when they speak of the "grain" of butter. If they do, I am as much in the dark as Mr. Jameson.

"Streaks" in Butter.—Cause and Remedy.

Another matter has received an airing in the FARMER lately, concerning which I wish to add my experience. What is the cause of streaks in butter? one asks. There are two replies. One says it is uncharned cream which adheres to the sides of the churn, and afterwards mingles with the butter. I suppose she means that it still remains cream, its globules unbroken, hence butter and buttermilk inseperably united. That this is the case with every churning of butter I have no doubt, but that it causes the streaks I am not so certain. A churning from very rich cream will contain nearly one-third cream after churning. A thorough working in of the salt *completes* the churning and prevents white streaks. I know if it is properly worked no streaks will remain, and if improperly worked they will appear. I know this by entrusting the work to my little daughter when I am unavoidably called away. (She can do well for a twelve-year-old, but 20 lbs. is too much for her.) I can easily remove all streaks by a second working. Now what is the difficulty? Do those streaks lack salt, or are they streaks of unchurned cream? Here is where the question must rest till answered. The *remedy* is obvious; the *cause* is not so clear. I think "Rustic" asked a question here that no man's dictum ought to settle until the most thorough experimenting has satisfied him. Two of the replies to "Rustic" read like this: "It is because the butter is not thoroughly worked after salting," one adding that it changes color after salting. I believe if the butter was thoroughly worked and not salted, it would change color by standing a day or two; and I *almost* think the streaks would appear if never salted and it lacked the requisite working, but I do not know positively. Mr. S. E. Lewis of Oxford, N. Y., says "the white streaks are parts that have not taken salt." He is good authority, but is he absolutely correct? We want certainty, and is any one certain? If so, let us have his experience.

DAIRYMAN.

For the Maine Farmer.

North Knox Ag'l and Hort. Society.

At a meeting of this society held at the Town Hall, Union, Dec. 22d, 1875, to consider the matter of a union of the agricultural societies in the county, the following article, published in the Rockland *Free Press*, of October 6th, from F. W. Smith of Rockland, was read:

"The question has been asked a great many times by some of our prominent farmers during the past two or three years, and especially during the last fair—Why is it that so small a county as Knox tries to support two agricultural fairs? They say, why don't the farmers in this county unite and put up a large building expressly for fairs; own grounds, and locate permanently, and have one good, strong society. They say further, You can never succeed in sustaining two societies—moving about from place to place, year after year. There is certainly some reason in the above remarks. If these two societies were united, the State bounty, instead of being divided as it now is between the two, would all come to the one society. It is very evident that the large majority of farmers throughout the county are in favor of the union. The Knox Society have always favored the idea. It would seem to be very proper to take some steps to ascertain the opinion of the members of the North Knox Society, with a view of uniting, purchasing grounds, and erecting buildings for this purpose. This is what prominent and well established societies do in other counties and states. Let us hear from the farmers in reference to this matter."

After the reading of the above the following statement was read, the same having been written by Wm. Gleason, esq., Secretary of the North Knox Ag'l Society, and published in the Rockland *Opinion* of Oct. 15th, 1875:—"This, our seventh annual Fair, fully demonstrates the ability of our citizens within the limits of the North Knox Agricultural Society to maintain a good working organization. That it is the life of such societies to hold their meetings alternately in the several towns, is proved by the success of this, which has lived through an opposition almost without precedent, and now numbers 1200 members. We can pay our debts and have money in the treasury."

After the reading of these articles and some discussion upon the same, the following resolutions were introduced by N. R. Burkett, esq.:—

"*Resolved*, That having separated ourselves from the Knox County Agricultural Society, and received an act of incorporation from the State of Maine, including within our limits Warren, Union, Hope, Appleton and Washington, and having for nearly seven years successfully conducted said Society, paid our premiums, gratuities and bills at sight; and notwithstanding the Knox Society has heretofore repudiated our existence as a Society by choosing a part of their officers from those towns embraced in our charter limits, we are determined to maintain our position, if it can be done by our devotion to the cause of agriculture and horticulture, and by sustaining the North Knox Ag'l. & Hort. Society.

Resolved, That the Representative from Warren and Union, Austin Keating, esq., and the Representative from Washington, Appleton and Hope, John W. Fogler, esq., be requested to oppose any movement in the Legislature of Maine, at the ensuing session, having for its object, or tendency, the uniting of the Knox County and the North Knox Agricultural Societies."

The above resolutions were unanimously adopted and ordered to be published in the MAINE FARMER.

Union. WM. GLEASON, Sec'y.

For the Maine Farmer.

Cannot Maine Grow Oats?

I noticed in the list of imports at Bangor, some weeks since, that "two car loads of oats had been received by rail from the West." This does not speak flatteringly for the industry of the farmers of Maine, which State is admitted to be the best oat-growing State in the Union. Was it not Mr. H. C. Burleigh of Fairfield, that reported between 80 and 90 bushels to the acre, some year or two since? In Nova Scotia oats are reported at 45 cents per bushel; in Augusta, 55; Chicago, 35; New York, 50, (best.) The oat crop must certainly pay in Maine, but it looks like carrying "coals to New Castle," to see oats shipped from Chicago to Bangor. Lumber shipped from Grand Rapids to Bangor would be equally inconsistent. READER.

For the Maine Farmer.

Provender for Sheep.

As the soil of Maine grows older we have less of clover and other grasses that are needful for sheep, especially for those that have lambs. I once heard a farmer of Maine remark he had no trouble in raising winter lambs when he had a plenty of clover hay. But a little provender would no doubt be a benefit to most any flock. In talking with a farmer of Massachusetts who was among the few who kept sheep, he said, "I give my sheep a little corn every day, and think I am well paid in my lambs." Sheep who have lambs before leaving the barn in spring, are likely to be weak unless they have some provender in addition to the ordinary hay now fed. Acting upon the above suggestions I fed a little corn and shorts to my flock during the winter of 1874 and '75, and from 31 sheep raised 35 lambs, not one having died. At present prices one winter lamb will purchase about four bushels of corn. T. B. NICHOLS.

East Vassalboro'.

For the Maine Farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Meteorological Observations.

An abstract of the Meteorological Observations taken at the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, for the month of Dec., 1875, by Prof. M. C. FERNALD.

Lat. 44° 53' 10" N. Lon. 68° 38' 57" W. Altitude above the sea, 134 feet.

Mean temperature,	18.78
Maximum "	50.2
Minimum "	23.0
Mean of warmest day, (23d.)	41.6
Mean of coldest day, (30th.)	8.0
Mean per centage of cloudiness,	.51
Am't rain in guage,	1.51 in.
Am't of snow,	13.00 "

Direction and force of winds:—N. W. & W. .62; S. W. & S., .20; S. E. & E., 02.; N. E. & N., .16.

Mean height of barometer in inches,	29.768
Maximum " "	30.539
Minimum " "	28.963

Mean force of vapor sufficient to sustain a column of mercury in height, .091in.
Mean humidity of the atmosphere, .80

A Correction.

Somewhere between my plainly made figures and the printed page (see J. P. C.'s "Notes by the Way," in the FARMER of Jan 1st.) you have reduced the weight of my heifer 200 lbs. It should be 1525 instead of 1325, as you have it.

Fr. croft. LEONARD ROBINSON.

The Past Season in Minnesota.

The past spring was cold and backward, and the season rather dry. The growth of wheat was the best I have seen for a dozen years; but much of it was stacked in a poor manner, and was much injured by the damp and wet weather of harvest. Somebody must use poor flour, for a great deal of bleached wheat will be ground. We had the lightest crop of corn I have ever known, but harvested a fair crop of potatoes. The river closed Nov. 15th, and snow covered the ground the 18th. A SUBSCRIBER.

Brooklyn, Minn., Dec. 1st.

Season in Eastern Cumberland.

The lowest thermometer at Brunswick during Dec. was 23° below zero; average coldest day, 9 below; highest thermometer, 55° average; highest for one day, 46°. Snow fell 6 inches, giving only three days of poor sleighing during the past month. Latter part of December ground entirely bare of snow. M.

Shepherd Wanted.

A friend writes me wanting to secure a shepherd; a good one, who well understands the business. He lives on and owns a large Island, and has a large flock of sheep, and wants a practical, educated shepherd to take charge of them. Do you know of one, or where to find one? F. A.

A "Dancing Star."

Your correspondent, Mr. H. G. Brown, gives a account in the FARMER of the 25th ult., of a "dancing star," as seen by himself and others at Gorham, on Thanksgiving night, and enquired if it was noticed by other readers of your paper. No uncomm

Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Jan. 15, 1876.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

$2.00 IN ADVANCE, OR $2.50 IF NOT PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DATE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Postage Free to all Subscribers.

☞ All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for moneys remitted by him.

☞ A subscriber desiring to change his post office direction or to discontinue his paper, must communicate to us the *name of the office to which it has previously been sent*, otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices.

Mr. C. S. AYER is now calling upon our subscribers in Knox county.

MR. J. P. CLARK will call upon subscribers in New Brunswick during the month of January.

MR. S. N. TABER will call upon our subscribers in West Kennebec during the present month.

An Appeal to our Patrons.

We are under the necessity of making one more appeal to delinquent subscribers. A large amount is due us, which is required to defray the current expenses of the FARMER. Our needs are urgent, and the source to which we have a right to look for aid, is to those who are reading and have read the paper for years without paying for it. Will they help us in our present extremity? The little that each delinquent subscriber might easily pay, would in the aggregate make a sum sufficient to relieve our immediate necessities, and also enable us to conduct the paper more to the acceptance and advantage of our patrons. Let the near approaching advent of the Centenary year be made memorable and joyful to both publishers and patrons, by the prompt and cheerful discharge of this duty. The subscriber who pays for his newspaper can celebrate the glorious anniversary of his country's independence with a clear conscience. And as an additional inducement to do this, we make the following offer:

All persons in arrears who will send us the amount now due, at the rate of $2 per year and two dollars in addition, shall receive credit for all past indebtedness, and for a year's subscription in advance. THIS OFFER TO STAND OPEN UNTIL THE FIFTEENTH OF JANUARY, 1876. All payments made at this office, or by mail, or to our authorized agents, previous to that date, will be credited in accordance with the terms above stated.

Light.

Man, of all created beings, is the only one who seems to need artificial light to aid him in bridging over the long period of darkness between sun and sun, and is the only one with sufficient intelligence to supply himself with the kind of light he needs. The fire-fly and the glow-worm are furnished by nature with the means of producing a pale phosphorescent light, which we suppose serves them some good purpose; and some animals and birds, such as the cat and the owl, have eyes constructed to see tolerably well in the dark, but man alone has been able to kindle a fire, and invent a lamp, and procure something to burn in it. The methods of producing artificial light have been as progressive as our civilization, and it is curious to look back and note how the supply has always been equal to the demand, both in quantity and quality.

There was probably a time in the early history of our race when no artificial light was used, nor was it much needed by those who roosted in the trees. But when the inventive mind of man began to devise other and more convenient habitations, the need of artificial light began to be felt, and it was doubtless a season of great rejoicing when the first pine knot gave forth its brilliant rays, and the dish of oil or lump of fat was utilized for purposes of illumination. Probably the first improvement on the primitive method of lighting by means of the pine knot or lump of fat, was the invention of the lamp. Rude forms of this useful article have been dug from the earth with other utensils of the stone age, and in later periods they were found elaborately carved and ornamented.

The materials used for supplying the carbon, without which we can have no good light, were fats of the various animals and oils obtained from fish; and up to within fifty years, we were restricted to these articles alone, unless we except bees-wax, which was used to give body and durability to the fats which were formed into candles. In due time the supply of fish oil became limited, and the tallow was wholly inadequate to the increasing demand for "more light." The astral lamp had previously been substituted for the small round wick, which only served to make the darkness visible, though its use was mostly confined to churches and the houses of the wealthy. As the country progressed, capital and labor united to build factories, and these must be illuminated a portion of the time; large cities were built, and for public convenience and safety, and the prevention of crime, it was necessary that the streets should be lighted; private houses were largely multiplied, and the want of more illuminating material began to be seriously felt. Experiments with a mixture of alcohol and spirits of turpentine were made and with some success, but the supply of these materials was insufficient, and they subsequently became so costly as to prohibit their use.

The use of illuminating gas was an important step, though for a time it was confined to our large cities. But it afforded immense relief to the diminished supply of illuminating substances which had previously been used, and few persons had any idea of the revolution it was destined to work. When it was first used the people were afraid of it, and when it was proposed to introduce it into Philadelphia, to light the streets and public buildings, there was a strong remonstrance against it. But people soon became accustomed to it, and we should not now know how to get along without it. In due time kerosene was manufactured from coal, and subsequently from petroleum, and now our coal deposits furnish us with nearly all our artificial light, and the supply appears to be inexhaustible. There seems to be something providential in the way man has been supplied with material for illuminating purposes, and judging from the past, we should have no fears for the future. To appreciate the progress in this direction, we have only to compare the light of a tallow candle with that of one of our Argand burners of the present day. The latter will give more light than twelve of the former, and at much less expense. Light is now so cheap as to be within the reach of all, and if our dwellings are not made light and cheerful, it is due to indolence or stupidity, and perhaps to both.

Our present system seems almost the perfection of illuminating, but there may still be chances for progress. We may yet be able to supply ourselves with light from water, or we may succeed in capturing and keeping the sunbeams to furnish us with light, when the glorious orb has disappeared. But we ought to be thankful for our present system, which enables us who reside where there is such a preponderance of darkness for much of the year, to illuminate our streets and homes at a very trifling cost. The influence of good light and a plenty of it, in our houses, is salutary. It makes them appear cheerful and attractive, and is powerful in inducing the young to remain at home and under home influences. It affords us important facilities for mental improvement, adds greatly to our means of usefulness and years to our life.

☞ The First Christian Church on Northern Avenue will dedicate their house of worship on Thursday evening, Jan. 20, at 7 o'clock. Rev. O. J. Hancock of Skowhegan, with other ministers, will be present. We learn that a protracted meeting will follow, to continue for several days.

CITY NEWS AND GOSSIP. The writing school term of the Dirigo Commercial College commenced Tuesday evening.——The days have lengthened twenty minutes.——Prof. Brown of Tufts College, is to give a reading in this city on the evening of Friday, Jan. 21st, under the auspices of the Young Peoples' Centennial Club. The wide reputation of Prof. Brown as an acomplished reader, should insure him a full house.——Mr. Whitbed of the Augusta House, has arranged for a series of assemblies at his house during the session of the Legislature. They are more especially designed for the benefits of his guests, though a few outsiders will have a part. They are arranged for Friday evening of each week.——There is considerable interest among the business men of Augusta, with regard to building the railroad from here to West Waterville.——A collection in aid of the Howard Benevolent Association was taken up in the Universalist Church Sunday, and $25.88 were contributed. This Association is doing a good work, and its efforts should be supplemented by frequent contributions of this kind in the different churches.——That fire bug made another attempt to burn Thomas's carriage shop Saturday evening, but set about his work too early. A general alarm was sounded at ten o'clock, but the flames were extinguished by the aid of the hydrant in the vicinity, after burning through the roof. This is the third attempt to burn this building.——Miss Tamar Dickerson, a colored women over 99 years of age, died Thursday at the residence of Mrs. Clifford. Eighteen years ago she came here a slave with her mistress, from Woodville, Miss., and when her mistress went back she declined to go with her.——One hundred intentions of marriage were entered with the city clerk during the year 1875. There was one in February and nineteen in Dec.——Mrs. Scott Siddons will read at Granite Hall, on the evening of Jany. 28.——Ira D. Sturgis, Thomas Lambard and Ira H. Randall have purchased the property of the Kennebec Land and Lumber Company, on the east side of the river, and next season will build a steam mill on the site of the one recently burned. We learn that the price paid was $12,500, which seems to be an excellent bargain for the purchasers.——Jubilee Concert Friday evening.——Dr. W. S. Thompson who signed heavily with Coller, Hamilton & Co., has filed a petition in bankruptcy.——A sries of sociables is to be inaugurated at the Mansion House.——The several National banks have recently held their annual meetings, and the old officers have generally been re-elected. F. H. Adams has been elected cashier of the Freeman's bank, in place of his brother, deceased; and Hon. J. H. Williams, president of the First National Bank in place of Col. G. W. Stanley, who resigns the position after many years honorable and useful service.

FREE PASSES. The Boston and Maine, Eastern, Maine Central, Fitchburg and Lowell railroads have voted to entirely abolish the free pass system, which has grown to such proportions as to seriously affect the receipts of the roads. Included in the dead head system have been hotel keepers, stage and hack drivers, policemen, custom house and post office gentlemen, members of the press and of city governments, and many others, most if not all of whom have no more right to be exempt from paying railroad fares, than from paying other bills which go to make up the current expenses of living. In flush times when travel was large and the receipts satisfactory, the railroads could stand it well enough, but now when they find it difficult to meet their interest, every dollar helps, and no railroad which cannot pay its interest and other bills promptly, has any right to give away rides any more than money, at the expense of their creditors. So far as the members of the press are concerned, the rule will do them no particular harm. Under the free pass system they were apt to travel more than was necessary, and car fares are not the only nor largest bills which they who travel are obliged to pay. The abolition of the free pass system will put money in the pockets of many.

☞ Mr. Fred Atwoood of Winterport has left at this office a sample of a unique and convenient barometer which he has for sale. The benefit of this little weather prophet to the farmer is no longer a question and we have never seen a better design than the one before us. It will stand upon the mantel piece and in front are two little recesses in which are seen the figures of a man and woman. When the mercury rises and fair weather is indicated the little lady advances out of the recess. When the mercury falls and foul weather is indicated the lady retires and the gentleman comes to the front. It is combined with a thermometer so that the degree of heat as well as the weight of the atmosphere is shown. It is not expensive only $2.10 by mail.

☞ The annual Vegetable and Flower Seed Catalogue of Gregory, the well-known seedsman of Marblehead, Mass., is advertised in our columns. We can endorse Mr. Gregory as both honest and reliable. The bare statement of the fact that he grows so large a number of the varieties of seed he sells, will be appreciated by market gardeners, and by all others who want to have their seed both fresh and true.

☞ Vickery's Fireside Companion a monthly story paper published in this city is meeting with marked success. During the year just past it booked 63,000 new subscribers and now has a circulation of 90,000. Mr. Vickery has recently fitted up the old Winthrop Hall into a convenient printing office where his large and increasing business is carried on.

☞ In the Executive Council, Messrs. Mason, Warren, Richards and Buffum of the first, second, fifth and sixth districts, respectively, were re-elected. Mr. Grindle, of the third district, is succeeded by G. A. Preble of Bath, Mr. Williamson, of the fourth district, by Col. C. A. Wing of Winthrop, and Mr. Perkins of the seventh district, by Solomon Stanley of Kingfield.

☞ From information which we have received, we are led to believe that the item copied by us from an exchange, respecting the cause of the discharge of one of the teachers at the Norman school at Castine, is untrue. The facts do not seem to warrant the statement that his dismissal had anything to do with sectarianism.

☞ Mr. and Mrs Calvin Hayes of Limerick celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage on Christmas. A large number of friends and relatives were present and the presents were costly and beautiful. The father and mother and eight children formed a group and had their pictures taken by Mr. E. E. Sawtelle.

☞ Our readers will welcome the advertisement of the popular Seedsman Messrs. D. M. Ferry & Co., of Detroit, Mich. Their Seed Annual for 1876 far surpasses their previous number. The firm, one of the largest in the Seed business, needs no indorsement from us.

☞ We are desirous of completing our set of the annual report of the Maine Insane Hospital and if any of our readers have numbers which they do not care to preserve, we shall be greatly obliged if they will forward them to us. We desire especially the numbers between 1845 and 1860.

☞ Mr. S. Coebrane of Dover recently renewed his subscription to the FARMER, which he has taken without interruption from the issue of the first number.

☞ Attention is called to the advertisement of E. Moody & Sons, Lockport. This house is one of the oldest and largest in the Nursery trade in the United States.

☞ Though the Sabbath school system in America is comparatively recent, its development and growth are truly wonderful; and it now claims a large share of attention from both ministers and parents. Its importance as a feeder of the church was very early recognized, and now it is regarded as one of our most important agencies for the moral and intellectual development of the young. There can be no better evidence of the prosperity of a religious society, than a well attended and well managed Sabbath school, and such a school also most emphatically avouches for the high moral character of the community in which it is found.

But there are too many parents who content themselves with sending their children to the Sabbath school, and do not go themselves. This is wrong, unless the home duties of the parent are of such a nature that they cannot well be postponed till the school is over. The presence of the parents has an encouraging effect on the children, besides greatly aiding the superintendent in maintaining order. Where they are capable, parents are needed as teachers, and where they are not capable, they should certainly attend for their own benefit as well as that of their children, and take their places in the Bible class. The burden of conducting the Sabbath school should not be imposed upon a few, but all should unite and make individual labor light enough to be pleasant. The intellectual training which many Sabbath school scholars now receive, to say nothing of the religious instruction, is of great value to them, and may have an important bearing on their future course of life. Many of our young ministers have been encouraged to prepare themselves for their high calling, from the success of their efforts in the Sabbath school. The Sabbath school is not only the nursery of the church, but it is a school for the developement of mind and for the moulding of character, and to those who receive its full benefits, a pledge of good citizenship.

☞ The recent excitement about anti-Catholic secret societies appears to be subsiding, and we have no doubt that if such an organization actually exists, its extent has been greatly exaggerated and its objects misstated. We do not believe there is any necessity for such an organization, for the school question presents no difficulties which may not be satisfactorily adjusted without a resort to such questionable means; and there is no other issue between the Catholic and Protestant sects in this country which need give any uneasiness to either side. We do not believe in the utility of secret societies to effect political objects, but on the other hand, we can see where they may become dangerous to our liberties. Societies of this kind cannot long exist on one side of a political question, without bringing into existence opposing societies, and when such are skillfully managed by unscrupulous men, they become a dangerous element in the body politic. They are dangerous because they are opposed to the fundamental idea of our form of government, which is that all political questions shall be settled in a public manner, and that all the citizens shall have a voice in their settlement. This contemplates public discussion and a comparison of views upon all subjects which affect the public weal, or in which the entire community is interested, and any movement which looks to a removal of such matters from the tribunal of public judgment to the decision of a dark-lantern society, is subversive of true democratic ideas and a dangerous innovation upon public and private rights.

There can be no reasonable objection to secret societies formed for social or charitable purposes, and such organizations have been productive of much good, but when it is attempted to effect political reforms through the agency of such societies, it is assuming the exercise of dangerous functions, and not good but evil will follow. The bloodiest revolutions in France were precipitated by just such agencies as we are speaking of, and if we are wise we shall profit by their example.

PENSION FRAUDS. United States Deputy Marshal Marble and J. H. Kent detective arrested in Clinton, last week, Mrs. E. E. Randall George Henry Lewis, Mrs. J. Lewis, and Aaron Eldridge and wife, and took them to the hotel, where they remained until morning, who are charged with defrauding the United States Pension Department. The parties were taken to Portland and arraigned before the United States Commissioner. Mrs. E. E. Randall and Mrs. Eldridge were discharged and John Lewis, Aaron Eldridge, and George H. Lewis pleaded not guilty and were held to bail. The circumstances as we understand them are as follows:

Eben Lewis was a soldier in the war of 1812. He died, and six weeks after, his widow died. His son Samuel's wife, Jane Lewis, personated her mother-in-law, and secured a pension from the United States government by means of her fraudulent claim. The grand jury found indictments against John Lewis, Esther Nelson, Aaron Eldridge, Jane Lewis, George H. Lewis and Nathaniel W. Randall for conspiracy and combination with Jane Lewis to defraud the United States government; also against Aaron Eldridge for making, signing and delivering false and fraudulent certificates for the purpose of securing the fraudulent claims against the government; and against John Lewis for swearing that he saw the marriage ceremony performed between Ebenezer Lewis and Jane Lewis then called by the name of Jane Eldridge. The case will come up at the February term of the District Court in Portland. It is but justice to the parties to say that they and their friends claim that they are the dupes of Rev. Nathaniel W. Randall, the reputed minister who was recently convicted of passing counterfeit money, and sentenced to Auburn jail for five years.

☞ An Irishman in Portland has just been adjudged the heir to a property in Dublin, Ireland, valued at $90,000. It appears that Philip Clancy, eldest son of James Clancy, the eldest son of Charles Clancy, has been living with his family since 1850 in Portland. The grandfather, Charles, left the above named property. A second son of Charles, named Patrick, who was also an uncle to Philip, claimed and took possession of the property. Philip was a bigh-flyer. He went to Texas and drove cattle. He was blown up in a torpedo boat during the war, escaped alive. He was arrested in Portland, for assaulting his sister with a hatchet. The family were low enough here, and his sister was in the almshouse. Philip heard of the death of his grandfather, and Messrs. Bradbury & Bradbury of Portland undertook the case. Depositions were taken and members of the family sent to Ireland to prove his identity, which Patrick disputed. Mr. McGowan, foreman at the rolling mills went out, and his testimony proved convincing, and Mr. Philip Clancy comes into his property.

☞ Bork, the defaulting city treasurer of Buffalo has voluntarily returned to the city from Ontario Canada, and given himself up. He was arraigned and his bail fixed at $50,000. He claims that if allowed he can dispose of his real estate property so as to fully cover his indebtedness to the city and leave a handsome surplus.

☞ The boy at St. Albans, Vermont, who pretended to be Charlie Ross, proves to be a graceless little scamp, from Milford, N. H., named Jimmie Blanchard. He has been taken to Milford where he was identified and finaly made a full confession.

☞ Hon Daniel Marcy of Portsmouth, was nominated Governor of New Hampshire in the Democratic State Convention Wednesday.

Editor's Table.

Jesus of Nazareth: His Life for the Young Folks, is the title of a new book by Joseph P. Thompson, D. D.; published by J. R. Osgood & Co., Boston. The story of Jesus, his life and ministry, his death and resurrection are here told in simple and chaste language, adapted to the comprehension of the young. It contains about 450 octavo pages, is beautifully bound and illustrated, with a copious index. Parents would do well to provide this attractive volume for the use of their children.

Mrs. M. A. Diaz has written a charming little volume entitled "A Story Book for the Children," which is printed and sold by J. R. Osgood & Co, Boston. It is made up of several short stories, written in Mrs. Diaz attractive style and illustrated. A nice volume for a little girl.

GENEALOGICAL REGISTER. The January number of this quarterly contains a valuable table of contents. It has a fine steel portrait of the late Gov. Wm. A. Buckingham of Connecticut, and contains several Genealogical and Historical Sketches of great interest to the student of History. The Genealogy of the Foster Family, or of the descendants of Reginald of Ipswich 1635, many of whose descendants reside in Maine, is of special interest. This valuable journal is published at No. 18, Somerset St., Boston, at $3 per annum. Address John Ward Dean as above.

Life of Lord Byron and other Sketches: By Emilio Castelar. Translated by Mrs. Arthur Arnold, New York. Published by Harper & Brothers. Sold in Portland by Bailey & Noyes. Castelar who was the leading spirit in the recent Republican movement in Spain, since the restoration of the Monarchy, has turned his attention to Lord Byron, Victor Hugo and other unsuccessful political leaders. The sketches are written in Castelar's fervid style, and will be perused with great interest.

The New England Historical and Genealogical Society has just issued a very handsome volume containing the Centennial Orations commemorative of the opening events of the American Revolution, with other centennial proceedings. It is embellished with a fine steel engraving of Gen. Joseph Warren, and contains the proceedings and addresses at Salem, Concord, Lexington, Cambridge, Philadelphia, Boston and Bunker Hill. Only two hundred and fifty copies were printed. It contains 176 large pages and will be furnished in paper covers at $1.50, and in cloth at $2.00. Address John Ward Dean, No. 18 Somerset street, Boston, Mass.

"Songs of Three Centuries," is the title of an elegant volume edited by John G. Whittier, and published by J. R. Osgood & Co., Boston. The author's citations commence with the time of Shakespeare and end with Longfellow. The first period is from Shakespeare to Milton, the second from Dryden to Burns, and the third from Wordsworth to Longfellow. The compiler has confined himself mostly to the lyrical productions of the author's quoted and to the briefer poems. The selections are numerous and varied, and the volume one of the best of the season.

From the author we have received a story entitled, A Romance of Perfume Lands, or the search for Capt. Jacob Cole, with interesting facts about Perfumes and Articles of the Toilet by Clifford, Perfumer, Boston. The book is for sale by J. F. Pierce.

The Thrones and Palaces of Babylon and Nineveh, from Sea to Sea. A Thousand Miles on Horseback. By John P. Newman, D. D., of the London Society of Biblical Archeology. New York: Published by Harper & Brothers. Sold in Portland by Bailey & Noyes. This is a beautiful volume of over 450 octavo pages, and gives graphic accounts of the historic countries so often referred to in the Old Testament. It is finely illustrated and printed on heavy tinted paper.

Forster's Biography of Dean Swift (published in London, and re-issued by Harper & Brothers, New York) is an almost faultless octavo volume, with handsome letterpress, and wide margined pages. Forster takes a liberal and mitigating view of the Dean's irregular life, and thinks a man of genius in his day did not merit the savage satire and criticisms of his former biographers. In this mood he glosses over the relations of Swift with "Stella," although he does not believe a secret marriage existed between them. The Dean's political life is not defended; nor do we see any reason why it should be, notwithstanding a century and a quarter of more liberal political life has elapsed since the author of "Gulliver's Travels" and "Tale of a Tub" left the shores of Time.

Horace King of Thompsonville, Conn., is re-publishing Zell's Popular Enclycopedia brought down to date and supplied with 18 maps. It is published in numbers, and a specimen number with map will be sent on receipt of 20 cts. It contains a vast amount of valuable information, and its low price brings it within the reach of all.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW. We have received this sterling quarterly for Jauuary, and noted its contents. The initial article is entitled the Herzegovinan Question, and is a timely and interesting paper. There are nine articles in all, besides the several departments of Art, Books, Literature and Science. Published by A. S. Barnes & Co., New York.

From Rand & Avery, Boston, we have received the A B C Pathfinder and Railway Guide for January, 1876. It contains, in addition to the already carefully compiled and corrected Official Time Tables of all the Roads in New England, an alphabetical list of every railroad station in New England, showing if it is a Telegraph Station or Money-Order Office; the population by the latest census; name of the road on which it is situated; route by which it can be reached; distance in miles from Boston by nearest route; average running time from Boston; expresses to and from the place; time of the mails closing at Boston and the time of departure from Boston, and return of all trains which connect directly with from Boston. It is the most convenient thing of the kind we have ever seen, and is of great value to business men throughout the country. Published by George K. Snow and Rand & Avery, Boston.

☞ N. F. Jacobs, Postmaster for several years at Bryant's Pond, died there on Sunday Jan 2, after an illness which had confined him to the house for much of the time for nearly twelve years. He was by trade a stone-mason and before his sickness was very proficient in his business. He was formerly foreman on the Bryant's Pond granite quarry and had charge of laying much of the Stone mason work on the Grand Trunk. He was buried on Wednesday Jan. 5 with full masonic honors. His age was 46.

☞ The United States fishing grounds on the McCloud river, Shasta county, California, in charge of Mr. Livingston Stone, have been set apart for fish culture, by the President of the United States, through the intervention of Hon. Spencer F. Baird, United States Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries.

☞ An Associated Press telegram from Kittery says that Col. M. F. Wentworth, general Inspector of the Navy Yard, has resigned his position because there was nothing for him to do. It was some time ago charged that the position was a sinecure and not successfully refuted.

☞ The building which was dedicated at Nashville, last week, known as Fiske University, cost $120,000, and has been sung into existence by the Jubilee Singers.

Maine Legislature.

After the organization of the Legislature and the election of the State officers as announced in our last issue, both branches adjourned over to Tuesday morning, Jan. 11.

In the House on Tuesday, after the completion of routine business, the joint standing committees were announced, the more important of which are as follows:

On Agriculture—Messrs. Lord of York, Peaks of Penobscot, Estes of Waldo, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Phillips of Orrington, Allan of Dennysville, Colby of Rumford, Hayford of Maysville, Brown of Brownville, Nelson of New Gloucester, Rowe of Frankfort, on the part of the House.

On the Judiciary—Messrs. Swasey of Oxford, Kyes of Franklin, Wheelwright of Penobscot, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Powers of Houlton, Pike of Calais, Talbot of East Machias, Eastman of Saco, Haynes of Augusta, Frank of Portland, Keegan of Madawaska, on the part of the House.

On Legal Affairs—Messrs. Donworth of Aroostook, Prescott of Somerset, Woodbury of Kennebec, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Cleaves of Portland, Stone of Biddeford, Lynch of Machias, Kimball of Waterford, Robinson of Lincoln, Thompson of Vassalboro', vacancy, on the part of the House.

On Financial Affairs—Messrs Hinckley of Hancock, Sturgis of Androscoggin, Wentworth of Washington, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Shepherd of Skowhegan, White of Bucksport, Rogers of Bath, Hobson of Wiscasset, Davis of Portland, Greely of Lewiston, Bass of Bangor, on the part of the House.

On Education—Messrs. Stevens of Somerset. Lord of York, Baker of Cumberland, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Nealley of Bangor, Hussey of No. Berwick, Pillsbury of Farmington, Maxwell of Webster, Warren of Westbrook, Hutchins of Fryeburg, Fletcher of Corinth, on the part of the House.

On Railroads—Messrs. Haskell of Cumberland, Hinckley of Hancock, Brown of Piscataquis, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Anderson of Portland, Porter of Burlington, Smith of Auburn, Sargeant of Sedgwick, Berry of Gardiner, Davis of Portland, Locke of Paris, on the part of the House.

On Commerce—Messrs. Carney of Lincoln, Watts of Knox, Wheelwright of Penobscot, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Jordan of Brunswick, True of Portland, Blaisdell of Franklin, Martin of Camden, Blanchard of Yarmouth, Goldthwait of Bideford, Gould of Brooks, on the part of the House.

On Mercantile Affairs and Insurance—Messrs. Wadsworth of Oxford, Carney of Lincoln, Brackett of York, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. White of Bucksport, Wiggin of Rockland, Meader of Waterville, Young of Hiram, Smiley of Pittston, Trickey of Cape Elizabeth, Allen of Waldoboro', on the part of the House.

On Banks and Banking—Messrs. Wheelwright of Penobscot, Sturgis of Androscoggin, Watts of Knox, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Dutton of Lewiston, Hume of Eastport, Haynes of Augusta, Baker of Newcastle, Grant of Ellsworth, True of Portland, Goodwin of South Berwick, on the part of the House.

On Manufactures—Messrs. Jordan of Androscoggin, Webb of Penobscot, Brown of Cumberland, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Burpee of Rockland, Cook of Lewiston, Libby of Limerick, Morrill of Deering, Farrar of Buckfield, Garey of Alfred, Stratton of Mattawamkeag, on the part of the House.

On Fisheries—Messrs. Talbot of Washington, Thompsen of York, Brown of Cumberland, on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Farrar of Buckfield, Connor of Troy, Haskell of Deer Isle, Trussell of St. George, Hopkins of Hermon, Clifford of Stockton, Reed of Tremont, on the part of the House.

On Insane Hospital—Messrs. French of Kennebec, Stevens of Somerset, Wentworth of Washington on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Ballard of Augusta, Seaward of Kittery, Norton of Industry, Carleton of Newfield, Cook of Lewiston, Percy of West Bath, Fowler of Albion, on the part of the House.

On Reform School—Messrs. Sturgis of Androscoggin, Prackett of York, Stevens of Somerset on the part of the Senate; Messrs. Lord of Bluehill, Allen of Wellington, Cumston of Monmouth, Leavitt of Athens, Clifford of Stockton, Pillsbury of Farmington, Potter of Woolwich, on the part of the House.

On State Prison—Messrs. Prescott of Somerset, Jordan of Androscoggin, White of Waldo, on the part of the Senate: Messrs. Burnham of Bethel, Floyd of Winthrop, Richardson of Hartland, Parcher of Leeds, Hyler of Thomaston, Sweetser of Newburg, Currier of Wilton, on the part of the House.

The house Committee on Ways and Means are as follows: Messrs. Shepherd of Skowhegan, White of Bucksport, Rogers of Bath, Hobson of Wiscasset, Davis of Portland, Greeley of Lewiston, Bass of Bangor.

In joint convention of the two branches, Solomon Stanley and George A. Preble, Councillors elect, were duly qualified. A joint committee of seven was appointed to take into consideration the duties imposed upon the legislature by the amendment to the constitution recently adopted, relating to corporations.

The business referred from the last to the present Legislature, was taken from the table and referred to the proper committees.

Previous to the adjournment Wednesday, Mr. Pike of Calais introduced a bill looking to a repeal of the present usury law, and fixing legal interest at six per cent. On Tuesday on his motion, the bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

An order was passed directing the committee on Fisheries to investigate the operations of the Fish Commissioners, and if the results do not seem to them sufficient to merit further appropriation, that they be further ordered to report such legislation as is necessary to abolish the office of Fish Commissioner.

In the Senate the Standing Committee were announced by the President. The usual order was passed limiting the time for the reception of petitions, except for redress of wrongs, to Feb. 2d.

The committees of the several State Institutions were directed to visit them. A committee on printing and binding was appointed; also a committee to negotiate for the purchase of the Maine State Year Book. A petition was presented from the Monmouth Mutual Fire Insurance Company, asking for legislation to enable them to cancel all policies in the first class, and close up business in that class.

The legislature has thirty chaplains, who officiate in rotation. Should the session be the usual length, there will be about a prayer and a half to each in the two branches.

The commission on closing up the Land office will soon make a majority and minority report—the majority of the commission reporting in favor of discontinuing the office, and transferring the business to the Treasury department, excepting that portion relating to settling lands, which it proposes to put into the hands of municipal officers in the places where the lands are located. The minority will favor the continuance of the office at present, as there is a large amount of work necessary in order to put the records, schedules, etc., in a condition to be intelligibly transferred, and taking the ground that the affairs of the office can be better closed up by the Land agent.

EASTERN RAILROAD. The plan adapted by the creditors of the Eastern rail-road proposes to fund all the debts and secure all the liabilities of the corporation on equal terms, in a thirty year-mortgage bond, with 3 1-2 per cent interest during the first six years. Interest on all debts to be made up to the first day of September, 1876. The rate of interest stipulated for during the first six years is believed to be all that the corporation is capable of earning. Until the mortgage debt is reduced to $10,000,000 the stockholders can receive no dividends, and all the net earnings of the road are to be applied to remove liens and mortgages on the property and to the reduction of the mortgage to that amount.

☞ Cyrus Wormell, formerly sheriff of Oxford county, and a prominent citizen of Bethel, died on Tuesday, the 4th inst. He served as sheriff and deputy nearly thirty years, and was a conscientious and faithful public officer. He formerly resided in Dixfield.

☞ C. M. Davis and W. A. Jackson have bought the Eastern Queen, and will run on the Jefferson lake the coming season, in connection with the Knox and Lincoln Railroad, and for excursions.

For the Maine Farmer.

An Epitome of the New American Decimal System of Weights and Measures.

The abreviated Tables are produced by prefixing a single latin numeral, centi, a hundredth part, to the unit of each measure, and thus giving the sub-multiple with ratio of 100, instead of ten twice told, as in the original.

I. Money-unit—the Dollar. 100 centi-dollars (or cents) make 1 dollar.—$.

II. Linear-unit—the Mean foot, or the primary and base unit of extension. 100 centi-feet (.01) make 1 mean U. S. foot.—F. The U. S. standard yard is a brass rod at the temperature of 62° Fah.—length three feet. 100 centi-yards (01) make 1 yard (1).—Y.

III. Surface-unit—square feet or yards. 100 centi-yards square make 1 square yard.—Sq. Y.

IV. Solidity-unit—the cube or 6=sided figure. 100 centi-cubic feet, or yards, make a cubic foot, or yard.

V. Weight-unit—the pound=7,000 troy grains. 100 centi-pounds (.01) make 1 pound Avd.—lb. 100 pounds is the standard to measure all dry commodities without regard to quality, as grain, &c.

VI. Capacity-unit—the Gallon=8.338822 lbs. of distilled water at temperature of 62° Fah., 30 in. 100 centi-gallons (.01) make 1 gallon, or unit.—G.

VII. Circles, Time and Longitude. Unit of these are a degree, or 360th part of a circle. 100 centi-degrees (.01) make 1 degree.—D. A day is while the earth revolves on its axis. 15 degrees make 1 hour, or 24th part of circle, or day. 365 1-4 days make 1 year.—Y. 100 years=1 century.

VIII. Geodetic or Engineers' Measure. Here the chain of 100 feet is the unit. 100 centi-chains (.01) make a chain.—Ch. In land measure, Gunter's chain of 66 feet is used, divided into 100 links. So it is chains and 100ths, or links.

IX. Nautical or Sea Measure, is by a log-line, about 1,000 feet long, divided into knots of 51 feet (or 120th part of a mile) each, together with a watch measuring half minutes, which is to the knot as the hour is to the mile=6120 feet. A fathom is 5 1-10 feet.

Addenda.

All arithmetical operations of this system are by the easy rules of Decimal Fractions. The units of these tables may be divided by Binary or Common Fractions, as half, 1-2=50; quarter, 1-4=25; eighth, 1-8=.125; sixteenth, 1-16=.0625, when required for exchange or mechanical purposes. Also such multiples are tolerated as will produce the acre, the mile, cord, ton, &c. 4840 sq. y.=1 A.; 1760 yards, or 5280 feet=1 mile; 640 sq. A.=1 sq. mile; 36 sections=1 Township; 2,000 lbs.=1 ton; 128 cubic feet=1 cord; 69.77 stat. miles make 1 degree or gt. circle.

Note.—The American foot is the mean length of measures of the same name, used by 40 different nations.

The most of the measures are identical with those of other nations who speak the English language, and with such they may be international; and many are universal with such as practice Geodetic, Nautical and Astronomical measurements.

This synopsis is uniform, ample and convenient for all practical purposes; easily acquired and remembered. M. B. B.

For the Maine Farmer.

Vassalboro' Sabbath School Convention.

This convention held its annual session to choose their officers in Oct. last. Officers for the year ensuing were elected as follows: Hon. Warren Percival, President; Dr. C. B. Cates, Vice-Pres.; Henry Dudley, Sec'y; T. B. Nichols, Treas. Executive Committee:—Geo. W. Files, North Vassalboro', Chairman; Emery Bragg, Ea. Vassalboro; James Randall, Matilda Randall, Cross Hill, Vassalboro; Emily E. Dudley and Lizzie Rollins, Ea. Vassalboro. The occasion was one of interest. Topics touching the S. S. cause were ably discussed by the President and Vice President, Brothers Day, Cozens, Dinsmore, Nichols, Doore, Bray, Bickmore, Sister Bush, Bro. Canham, Dr. Randall and Bro. Estes. Twelve schools were reported in successful operation in town, showing a decided increase in the aggregate over last year. The Secretary exhibited his new illustrated Chronological Scale and Chart of the Bible, as announced in the programme. H. DUDLEY, Sec'y.

Ea. Vassalboro', 1876.

KENNEBEC COUNTY ITEMS. The revival of the Cold Water Temple is contemplated in Gardiner.——The Journal says the total expenditures of Kennebec county the past year have been $56,430.03. The liabilities of the county amount to $57,889.64. Its resources (uncollected taxes and cash in the treasury) $23,795.80.——We learn that Hon. Neal Dow of Portland has been engaged by the Reform Club of Hallowell to deliver a lecture to them on his favorite subject, temperance, on Monday evening of next week, Jan. 17.——The Reporter understands that the Accident insurance company in which the late Hon. N. O. Mitchell was insured for $10,000, has notified his heirs that they shall resist payment, on the ground that he was violating the conditions of the policy by walking on the railroad track.——Maj. Wm. S. Haines, Sup't of Burials at Hallowell, states that forty-eight deaths have occured in that city during the year just closed. The oldest person of the number was Mrs. Rebecca Harrington, aged 81 years and 10 months.——Arrangements are in progress in Gardiner for a grand Masonic installation and ball to come off at Johnson Hall, on Thursday night, Jan. 20th, under the auspices of Hermon and Ionic Lodges of that city.——The Industrial School for Girls in Hallowell, is now filled to its utmost capacity. It has proved one of the most successfull of all the benevolent and reformatory institutions in the state.——The Journal says that in 1875 there were 285 commitments to the Kennebec county jail, of which 178 were for drunkenness. The year previous the committals amounted to 227, one hundred and thirty of which were for drunkenness.——The house of Mr. W. Hall of Vienna, narrowly escaped destruction by fire last Sunday evening. The family except Mrs. Hall, were all absent at the time. She thought she smelt something burning, stepped into an adjoining room and found the floor in a blaze. She seized a pail of water that stood in the room and succeeded in putting out the fire.——Some rowdies smashed out several windows of the city agency at Gardiner last week.——Joshua Ellis of Sidney, was arrested on Monday, by Sheriff Ramsel, for firing the buildings of John Trask, and taken before Justice Nye.——The dwelling house of Fred A. Berry at Gardiner was burned Tuesday. The fire was caused by the furnace. The main part of the house is ruined. The ell is badly damaged by water. The stable was saved. The loss is between $3,000 and $4,000: well insured.

☞ Perley telegraphs the Boston Journal that naval officers intimate that under various pretexts the whole available force of the service is to be concentrated at Port Royal. The Congress and the Juniata are daily expected there, and the Marion will go from Portsmouth to Norfolk, and perhaps further south, instead of directly to Europe.

☞ La Page has been on trial at Concord the past week for the murder of Josie Langmaid. The case has not yet gone to the Jury, but the opinion prevails that he will not be convicted.

☞ The boys in Salem and Lynn went in swimming on New Year's day. Who ever heard of such a thing before, in the latitude of New England?

Items of Maine News.

There is much sickness in New Sharon.

Measles and the whooping cough are very prevalent among the children in Eastport.

Machias has 123 persons on

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

The Markets.

Brighton Cattle Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 12.

Arrivals of stock at market—Cattle 1330; Sheep and Lambs 3764; Swine 5725; number Western Cattle 1094; Eastern Cattle 14; Milch Cows and Northern Cattle 261.

Prices of Beef Cattle per 100 lbs, live weight—Extra quality $7 12½@7 37½; first quality $6 50@7 00; second quality $6 00@6 37½; third quality $5 00@5 50; poorest grades of coarse Oxen, Bulls, &c., $4,00@5 75.

Brighton Hides 8c per lb; Brighton Tallow 7@7½c per lb. Heavy Country Hides 7½c per lb; light Country Hides 8½c per lb; Country Tallow 5½@6c ₩ lb.

Calf Skins 14@15c per lb; Sheep and Lamb Skins $1 00@1 50 each.

There were more Cattle in market this we k than there were one week ago. The quality of those from the West was full as good as that of one week ago. The trade has been better, as the warm weather has been bad for the dressed Beef which has been brought in quite freely of late and sold at low prices. This week prices have advanced from ½@c ₩ over those of one week ago, and nearly all the Beef Cattle were out early. There were a few extra ones sold as high as 7½c per lb.

Working Oxen—Not a large supply in market; a few pairs each week is all the market requires at this season of the year. The trade for Working Oxen will be light for several weeks to come, or until spring opens. We quote sales of 1 pair, girth 7 feet 1 inch, live weight 3000 lbs, $160; 1 pair, girth 7 feet, live weight 2960 lbs, $134.

Store Cattle—Yearlings $11@16; two year olds $16 @25; three year olds $2 @45 per head. Price of Store Cattle depend much upon their value for beef. There are but a few Store Cattle offered for sale at this season of the year.

Milch Cows—Extra $25@95; ordinary $25@50.—Most of the Cows offered in market for sale are of a common grade. Good Cows most always sell well.

Sheep and Lambs—Nearly all the Sheep and Lambs brought from the West are owned by butchers. The supply from the North was light. Trade was quick at prices ranging from 4½@7½c per lb.

Swine—Store Pigs, wholesale 8@9c, retail 10@11c per lb. Fat Hogs—5700 in market; price 7½@8¼c per lb.

Wool Market.

BOSTON, Jan. 12.

The market has been quiet the past week, but in prices very little change to notice. The recent failures among manufacturers has rather unsettled credits, and the standing of buyers is now very closely scrutinized. The sales comprise 200,000 lbs California at 14@25c for fall, and 30@36 for spring; 80,000 lbs Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces at 46@49c for X, XX and above; 120 000 lbs Michigan, Wisconsin and other fleeces at 42@47c; 100,000 lbs combing and delaine fleeces at 50@53c for washed and 40@49c for unwashed; 75,000 lbs unwashed Western Texas and southern at 27@34c; 200,000 lbs super and X pulled at 37@52c, the latter price for choice Eastern super; 60,000 lbs scoured at 3@75c; 10,000 lbs tub washed at 52@54c; 1700 lbs Noils at 42@52c; and 3200 lbs tags at 20c per lb.

Boston Market.

BOSTON, Jan. 5.

FLOUR AND GRAIN—The demand for Flour is quite steadd, the sales confined to small lots; we quote Western Superfine at $4 00@4 50 ₩ bbl; common extras at $4 75@5 50; Milwaukie and Minnesota extras at $5 00@6 75; white wheat Ohio, Indiana and Michigan at $6 @7 25; Illinois at $6 25@8 25; St. Louis at $6 50@9 00 ₩ bbl. Southern Flour is quiet at $4 75@9 ₩ bbl. for common extras and choice family; and fancy Minnesota at $7 75@9 25 ₩ bbl. Corn is quiet at 65@ 66c ₩ bush for mixed and yellow. Oats are steady at 48@53c ₩ bush for mixed and white. Rye 95@1 00 ₩ bush. Shorts, 19 50; Fine Feed $21@2150; and Middlings at $22@23 ₩ ton.

PROVISIONS—Pork is steady; sales at $15 00@15 50 for prime; $21 00@21 50 for mess $23 00@24 50 ₩ bbl. for clear. Beef ranges from $12 00@13 50 mess and extra mess, and $16 00@17 00 ₩ bbl. for family. Lard 13½@14c ₩ lb. for city and Western. Smoked Hams 13@13½c ₩ lb. Butter sells at 18@33c ₩ lb. and Cheese from 10@13½c ₩ lb. as to quality.

PRODUCE.—White Beans remain without improvement. The sales of mediums have been at $1 90@ 1 40 per bu. for fair and good up to $1 45 for choice; Pea at $1 60@1 85, as to quality; and Yellow Eyes at $2 25 per bu. Eggs have been selling at 33@37c per dozen for fresh Northern and Eastern. The market is well supplied with Potatoes, and the sales have been at 55@65c for Jackson Whites, and 40@45c for Peerless and Early Rose. Cranberries are firm and scarce, with sales at $8@12 per bbl for Country and Cape. Apples are not so firm, and have sold at $2@3 50 per bbl for common and choice The stock of Poultry is light, and there is a firmer feeling. The sales have been at 16@12c for common, and 15@18c per lb for good and choice. Onions are dull at $1 50@1 75 per bbl.

HAY.—There is a dull market for Hay and the sales have been at $20 per ton for coarse, with occasional lots at $21 per ton. Fine and medium grades range from $14@18 per ton. Rye Straw has been selling at $24@25 per ton.

New York Market.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.

COTTON—Sales 0000 bales—middling uplands ¶13¼

FLOUR—Sales 0000 bbls.—State $4 25@5 90; Round Hoop Ohio, $4 90@7 25; Western $5 90@7 75; Southern $4 90@8 75

WHEAT—Sales 000,000 bush. No. 2 Milwaukie, $1 24@1 26; No. 1, $1 35@1 35; No. 1, Chicago, $1 30@1 30 No. 2, $1 23@1 25; No. 2, Mixed, $0 00; No. 3, $0 00@0 00 Winter Red, $1 18@1 30; Amber, $1 45@1 45; No. 1 Iowa, $1 36@1 29; White Michigan, $1 45@1 45; Winter Western, $1 18@1 30.

CORN—Sales 00,000 bushels. Western 66@66½.

OATS—Sales 00,000 bushels—Western 46@52.

PORK—Sales 000 bbls. New Mess, $21 00@2100

LARD—Steam, 12¾@00c; Kettle, 14c.

SUGAR—Refining, 8@8¼; Porto Rico, 6¾; Cuba, —@7; Havana White, 9¼@9¾.

Gold and Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Jan. 12.

Gold opened and closed at 112¾.

Money was easier at 4@5 per cent on call.

United States Sixes (coupons) 1881 120½; 5-20's 1862, —; 1864, —; 1865, 116½; 1865 (new) 117½; 1867, 119½; 1868, 120¾; New 5's, 110½; 10-40's (coupons), 118; Currency, 122½.

Augusta City Market.

THURSDAY, Jan. 13.

APPLES.—In good supply at former quotations, viz:—cooking, or No 2's 1@75 per bush; choice No 1 fruit, $400 per bbl.

BEANS—Yellow eyes, $2 00@2 25; hand-picked Pea Beans $1 75@2 00.

BUTTER—While somehow supplied out of our report last week, remains unchanged in price, viz. choice family 30@35; store 25@30c.

CHEESE—Choice factory cheese 14c; prime domestic make, 12½@ 13c.

FLOUR—Superfine to common extra $6 50@7 50; Good brands at $7 50@8 00; choice Western $8 50; St. Louis favorite brands $9 00@11 00.

GRAIN—Corn 90@95; Oats 55 cts.; Barley, 80@1 00.

HAY AND STRAW.—At this season there is little loose hay in market, but prices remain unchanged, viz. $13@14 per ton for a prime article; loose straw $7@8 per ton.

HONEY—Choice box honey 30@35c. per ₩.

HIDES AND SKINS—Hides, 6½c; calf skins, 12@ 14; lamb skins 50@75c.

LIME—$1.35@1 35 ₩ cask.

MEAL—Corn 85@90; rye $1 75 ₩ bushel.

PRODUCE. Potatoes 45@50c; Eggs in fair supply at 30@33c; lard 16@17c.

SHORTS—$1.75 per 100 lbs.

PROVISIONS—Clear salt pork, $28@30, ₩ 200 lbs; beef ₩ side 9@10c; round hog 9@10c; ham 14@16c; turkeys 17@20c; veals 7@8c; mutton 7@8c; spring lambs 8@10c; fowls, 10@12; geese 15c; spring chickens, 15@20.

WOOD—Mill wood, delivered, $4 ₩ cord. Dry hard wood $7.00@0.00 per cord.

NOTE.—The cold weather and unfavorable condition of the roads keeps business quiet; although in most kinds of country supplies, our city market is very well supplied. Prices are steady and we have little change the report the present week.

Portland Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 12.

APPLES—are selling at $3.00@4.50 ₩ bbl. Dried 9@12

BUTTER.—Selling at 30@35c for family. Store, from 25@30c ₩ lb

BEANS—We quote hand-picked pea beans at $2 00@2 25; yellow eyes, $2 00@2 25.

CHEESE—Factory is selling at 13½@14c ₩ lb; Vermont and New York Dairy, 12½@14.

FISH—We quote large shore $5 00@5 25; large bank $5 00@5 50; small $4 00@4 50; pollock $3 50@4 25; haddock $2 50@2 75 ₩ qtl; herring $4 25@5 00 ₩ bbl; scaled, 9@0x, 25@30c; mackerel ₩ bbl—Bay No. 3 No 1, $14@12; Shore Nos. 1 and 2, $26 50.

FLOUR—We quote Superfine, $5 00@5 50; Spring X and XX, $5 75@7 00; Michigan Winter X and XX, $7 75@9 00; Illinois Shore XX, $7 50@8 50; Patent Spring Wheat, $8 00@10 00; St. Louis X and XX, $700 @9 50.

GRAIN—We quote mixed Corn at 68@— and yellow 70@—. Oats are worth 50@55c, fine feed at $30 @ ton, and shorts at $28 00 ₩ ton.

HAY—Loose, $13 00@15 00 ₩ ton for prime. Pressed selling at $12 00@16 00. Baled Straw $10@12 ₩ ton for prime.

LARD—₩ Tierce, 13¼@13½c ₩ lb; per keg 13½@13½; pail 13@15c.

PLASTER—White, ₩ ton, $3 00; blue $2 75; ground in bbls $8 00@9 50; calcined in bbls $2 75@3 00.

PRODUCE—We quote beef side at 9@13c; veal 8@10; mutton 12@15c; chickens 15@18c; turkeys 18@20c; eggs 30@33c; potatoes 50@55c ₩ bush; onions $2 25@ $2 50 ₩ bbl. Round hogs, 8@9.

PROVISIONS—We quote as follows: Mess beef, Chicago, $12 00@13 00; plate $15 00; extra plate $17 00@ 17 50 pork backs, $24 00@24 50; clear, $23 00@23 50; mess $22 00@22 50. Hams 12@13c.

Bangor Produce Market.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 12.

BEANS—Yellow eyes $2 00@2 00₩ bush; Pea Beans $2 00@2 25.

BUTTER—Is worth from 28@30c ₩ lb,

EGGS—Selling at 30@32c ₩ dozen.

HAY—Loose timothies loose sell at $10 00@14 00 ₩ ton Pressed $12@14.00.

GRAIN—Oats are now worth 50@52c ₩ bush; corn $0 88@90 ₩ bush.

POTATOES—40@45 per bushel.

PROVISIONS—Good fresh beef, by the side worth 7½@8c ₩ lb; round hogs 9@10c; mutton 6@8c; lamb 8@9c; chickens, 12@16c.

HIDES AND SKINS—Wool skins @1@1 25, cents each. Hides 5½@6c ₩ lb. Veal skins 12@c ₩ lb.

WOOL—Selling dull at 30@40c per lb.

☞It was argued against the prohibitory law of Massachusetts that cases were not prosecuted to final judgment but if the following report is true the license law does not work much better.

Out of 1,028 prosecutions for its violation, 290 have failed, forty-four have been nolle prosequied, and fourteen placed on file; 555 have been convicted and appealed, and only seven of those convicted have paid their fines, amounting to $550; the total cost being $2,659. Out of fifty-one persons whose licenses have been revoked, forty-six are still in business. Every licensed dealer gives $1,000 bonds to obey the law, but in no case have the bonds of violators been put in suit. The receipts from fines are much smaller than under the prohibitory law, but otherwise the practical workings of the two systems seem about the same.

VICE PRESIDENT WILSON'S HISTORICAL WORK. Vice President Wilson had finished his work on the "Rise and Fall of the Slave Power," with the exception of three or tour chapters. The material for these was left in the hands of Rev. Samuel Hunt of Natick. Mr. Wilson's private secretary, who assisted largely in the preparation of the two volumes already issued, and is very fully acquainted with Mr. Wilson's views and wishes. Mr. Hunt will immediately complete the concluding chapters, and superintend the passage of the volume through the press, as he did the previous volumes; and thus the great literary work of Mr. Wilson's life, which held so large a place in the hopes and purposes of his later years, and which —so far as published—has gained the heartiest favor of all competent and unprejudiced judges, will be completed, according to his wish, though not by his own hand.

THE STATE FINANCES. We are under obligations to Hon. Silas C. Hatch, Treasurer of State for copies of his annual report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1875, from which we extract the following items of interest:

The amount received into the treasury during the year 1875 was $1,568,775.43, and the balance in the treasury Jan. 1, 1875, was $322,185.27. The total amount of payments for the year 1875, was $1,513,860.43, and the balance in the treasury Dec. 31, 1875, was $377,093.84.

The principal disbursements were as follows:

Public debt $2400; interest on public debt $423,930; sinking fund of 1865, $123,775.90; ditto in 1868, $79,733.21; pay roll of council $3996; of senate $8658; of house $31,660.50; of constitutional commission $2,044.20; salaries of public officers $61,766.98; clerks in Secretary of State's office 2987.73; ditto in Treasurer's office 3861.67; in Adjutant General's office $2500; ditto for Superintendent of Common Schools $1200; insane state paupers $36,908.13; insane hospital $24,988; trustees insane hospital $1165.50; Reform school $18.000; Industrial school for girls $5000; Portland orphan asylum $3000; military asylum at Bath $9000; Bangor children's house $3000; deaf, dumb and blind, $11,637.50; Maine General Hospital $10,000; state prison $12,000; inspectors of state prison $1002; costs of criminal prosecutions $2356.52; reports of judicial proceedings $5400; support of paupers in unincorporated places $4144.57; soldiers' pensions $22,536.66; military pensions, $2,991.50; military purposes $8,316.11; on account of school funds, mill tax for schools, $364.287.33; Normal schools $17,963.31; free high schools, $41,846.05; Agricultural college $10.500; various sectarian and other schools $2220; Indians $16.840.62; fish commissioners and wardens $3021.05; propagation of fish $1,225.25; steamboat inspectors $793.05; statue to Gov. King $4000; printing $27,543.59; advertising laws $2345.08; postage $2053.36; stationery $3983.39; binding $6,804.17; bank examiner $1235; Centennial commission $871.83; contingent fund of Governor and Council $3,806.64; ditto of Treasurer $600; agricultural societies $5279.59; board of agriculture $1552.15; Secretary of ditto $323.97; furniture and repairs of public buildings $3637.14; for aid of roads, bridges, etc., $9165.75.

Among the receipts are the following items in addition to the regular tax assessed upon the towns and cities:

Tax on railroads $50.513.73; on insurance companies $12.434.77; from Insurance Commission, $1,367.56; savings bank tax No. 6 $72.206.07; No. 7 $148.185.22; No 8 $151,-473.34; interest on deposits $4,667.13; peddlers' licenses $1860.50; duty on commissions $2451; from J. W. Lyman of Machias and Nathan Cleaves of Portland, members of the last House, who would not take mileage but one way, $56; from Land Agent $23,351.21; interest $1,389.07.

The Treasurer estimates that the receipts of the treasury for 1876 will be $1,671,809,-63, which includes the balance of $377,093.-84 on hand Jan. 1, 1876.

He also estimates that the expenditures will be $1,353.490.30, assuming that the Legislature will make no extraordinary appropriations.

The resources of the state are $2,018,-782.67, which are mostly in taxes due and sinking funds. The liabilities of the state are as follows: Public debt $5,951,500; trust funds, $1,570,446.36; balance due on school funds, mill taxes, interest due and uncalled for, etc., $489,172.36; due counties for taxes collected, $8,063,53; total liabilities $8,019.182.05.

Of the $50,386.52 received from the railroads, $3,035.83 has been apportioned to the cities and towns where stockholders reside, as provided by the act. Of this sum, Portland got $840.74, Bangor $30.31, Bowdoinham $330.50, Augusta $106.00, Belfast $233.-48, Castine $126.82, Deering $214.90, Kennebunk $167.11, Kennebunkport $107.54, Topsham $95.43.

The state has derived during the year a revenue of $12,434.77 from the tax on insurance companies. Of this amount $1,-505.94 is derived from life and accident insurance companies, and $10,928.83 from fire and marine companies.

Concerning the public debt, the Treasurer says:

On the first day of January, 1875, the bonded debt of the state was $7.088.400; deducting the amount of sinking funds at that date it was $5,574,378. On the first day of January, 1876, the bonded debt of the State will be, after deducting the sinking fund (676,711.72) held in payment of the same, $5.272.683.28, a reduction during the year of $301,689.72.

The public debt, as represented on the books of this office exclusive of the $2000 due and uncalled for at the close of the present year, will be $5,949,400, of which $1,323,000 are in registered and $4,628,400 coupon bonds.

The amount apportioned to cities, towns and plantations the past year for school purposes, was $392,708.44. Amount expended by the state for free high and normal schools $56,223.84, for Agricultural College, $10.500, and for other educational institutions $2.500, making a total expenditure for educational purposes, $461,932.28.

By order of the Executive Council the Superintendent of Public Schools has reported to the Treasurer the number of towns which have neglected to properly expend their school moneys as required by law. The Superintendent has reported eight towns thus delinquent, including some of the best in the State.

The Treasurer renews his recommendation that "the law in relation to free high schools should be so amended as to authorize the State Treasurer to deduct from the school fund, before its apportionment, the sum annually expended by the state for free high schools; and would also suggest that the sum annually appropriated for normal schools and Agricultural College, be deducted in a like manner. These deductions from the school fund before its apportionment, would be quite a relief to the tax payers of the state, and would not deprive a scholar in the public schools of one day's less schooling than they now enjoy." The sum devoted to school purposes in 1875 amounted to $392,-707,44.

The Treasurer shows that $148,186,22 was assessed upon the savings banks of the state May 1, 1874, and $161,463.34 October 31. He expresses the hope that the Legislature will not change the present law relative to savings banks. The receipts from the Land Office the past year have been $38,409.32.

CHARGING BY THE HEAD. There is in Paris a hairdresser named Narcisse Piochard, who is also an artist and paints portraits for the humbler classes. His vocation makes it natural that in his avocation he should regulate his charges by the head, and his price is accordingly twenty francs per head, as was shown in a recent transaction with Mme. Beaulogis, a buxom janitress, who had her portrait painted with her hand on the bell-cord and her pet Angora cat in her lap. The picture was excellent and pleased the lady greatly. After expressing her admiration, she drew a louis d'or from her pocket and handed it to Piochard, who asked on taking it, "Where is the other?" "What other?" said the surprised janitress. "The other louis; your portrait is forty francs." "But you told me it would be twenty francs." "By the head. There were two heads—yours and that of your cat." "But the cat is an ornament, a mere accessory, like the cord. Do you want me to pay for the rope, too?" The cord dosen't count, but the cat counts; that is a head. I count by heads. Will you give me the other louis?" "No." "Well, then, I'll take away the picture;" and he did so. Mme. Beaulogis seeks to replevin it. Narcisse in return demands his two louis d'or, and the Paris District Court will soon have to decide this weighty lawsuit.

☞We never weary of Burns, the poor ploughman poet, who saw more beauty in Nature than all the bards of his time. The dialect of Scotland is harsh and unpoetical, and yet Burns is more thoroughly appreciated than any poet of the English tongue. Hence, we are glad to learn that Nimmo, of London, has just published a new and superbly illustrated edition of Burns' poems, the engravings being from the pencils of Scottish artists.

"Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot."

☞The Louisiana sugar crop for 1875 will be larger than in any year since 1861. It will come up to 180.000 hogsheads, an increase of 73,133 hogsheads over the product of 1874. With the exception of 1873, when the yield was but 89,498, the crop has been steadily picking up since 1864. That year only 10.387 hogsheads were sold. The crop of 1861 was unusually abundant, the yield being no less than 459,410 hogsheads. The recovery from the disorder of the war however, has been slow.

☞Beckwith, accused of robbing Babbitt the soap man of $250.000, is believed by his acquaintances to be innocent. He is said to have always borne a good reputation, and to be possessed of only a small property; and it is also alleged that Mr. Babbitt is prone to suspect his agents, and accused Mr. Beckwith's predecessor of embezzling over $200,-000.

☞The great statue of Christopher Columbus, designed for the city of Mexico, has arrived at Vera Cruz. Owing to the great size of the pedestal, it had to be hauled over the mountains by ox carts. It is too large to pass through the tunnels of the railroad between Vera Cruz and the City of Mexico.

Congressional Summary.

THURSDAY, Jan. 6.

SENATE. Senator Logan, who has been ill for some months, appeared in the Senate to-day for the first time this session.

Reports of the heads of the bureaus in the War Department were received, showing the inaccuracies and omissions which have been found to exist in the revised statutes of U. S. military.

Mr. Sherman of Ohio presented 596 petitions signed by 29.896 persons, praying for the abolition of the bank check stamp tax. Referred to Finance Committee.

Mr. Morton's report in regard to election of a President of the Senate was ordered printed and lies on the table.

After transaction of morning business. Mr. Morrill of Vt. called up the bill introduced by him yesterday to further provide for redemption of legal tender U. S. notes in accordance with existing law, and addressed the Senate in support thereof.

At the conclusion of his speech he moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE. Mr. Randall of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to make immediate investigation into the pay and allowance of all the officers of the army, and to report whether in any, and if so, in what cases, such pay and allowance should be reduced. Agreed to.

Mr. New of Indiana, offered a resolution declaring that the fraternal feeling and good will now existing in all sections of the country and the manifest disposition and purpose of men who battled against each other in the late civil war, to join hands as one people in the future, is the most auspicious ushering in of the centennial year, and that while the people are thus making an honest effort to live together in peace and uphold the same flag of an undivided country, their representatives in Congress should do no act which would unnecessarily disturb the patriotic concord now existing and increasing, and vote only to revive the better memories of the past. He insisted on having the vote taken by yeas and nays, and it was accordingly so taken, and resulted in the resolution being unanimously adopted. Yeas 198, nays none.

Mr. W. Hopkins of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on Centennial, reported a bill appropriating $1,500,000 to complete the centennial buildings and other preparations for the celebration, one-third of the amount to be paid immediately and the remainder in four monthly installments, provided the government shall not be liable to any debt or obligation in connection with the celebration or for any additional payment. Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Blaine of Maine asked Mr. Randall whether he desired to bring the House to a vote on his amnesty bill on Monday next.

Randall replied that he did.

Mr. Blaine then said he had a substitute to offer which he asked to have ordered printed. The substitute read as follows:

That all persons now under the disabilities imposed by the 14th amendment of the constitution of the United States with the exception of Jefferson Davis, late President of the so call confederate States, shall be relieved of such disabilities upon their appearing before any judge of the U. S. Court and taking or subscribing in open court the following oath to be fully attested and recorded:

I. A. B. do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose ot evasion, and that to the best of my knowledge and ability I will faithfully discharge the duties of a citizen of the United States.

FRIDAY, Jan. 7.

SENATE. Mr. Clayton presented papers bearing upon the case of Wm. K. Sebastian, late Senator from Arkansas, who was expelled from the Senate. Referred to Committee on Elections.

Mr. Davis of West Virginia gave notice that next Wednesday he would ask the indulgence of the Senate to submit some remarks in regard to the expenditures and revenues of the country, the public debt, &c.

The resolution calling for information in regard to arrests in Alaska was called up and agreed to.

Mr. Gordon of Georgia presented the petition of Stephen D. Lee of Columbus, Miss., late Lieut. General of the Confederate States army, for the removal of his political disabilities. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

The Senate went into executive session and adjourned till Monday.

The House was not in session.

MONDAY, Jan. 10.

SENATE. Senator Alcorn occupied his seat to-day in the Senate for the first time this session.

Mr. Sargent presented the petition of 26,-616 women of Utah, asking the repeal of the anti-polygamy law of 1862, and the Poland bill, and that Utah be admitted as a State in the Union, etc. In presenting the petition Mr. Sargent said he did not concur in the object of the petitioners but believed in the right to petition, and therefore laid the matter before the Senate as requested. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. Sargent of California, presented the memorial of the California Vinecultural Society, setting forth the various facts in regard to the culture of the grape vine and the manufacture of brandy, and asking relief. Referred to the Committee on Finance. In presenting the memorial Mr. Sargent said: "In France one billion five hundred million gallons wine were produced annually, valued at $30,090,000. Five million people were engaged in the culture of grape, and it has been stated that two vintages paid the indemnity exacted of France by Germany. California has about the same area of land as France, and one-half of it is suitable to grape culture. At present there are 30,000,000 vines in the State. There is a prejudice against California wine and frequently a higher price is paid for an inferior foreign article. The result is that grapes in California are frequently fed to hogs. The remedy to be applied at present is a relaxation of the rules in reference to the taxation of brandy. The memorialists desire that there should be a species of government warehouse provided in which the vine could be stored and the tax paid to the government at the time the vine or brandy went upon the market. The government now pays bounties to fishermen, discriminates in the tariff in favor of shipbuilding, etc., to all of which I have no objection, but I hope the same policy will be extended to the interests of California."

Mr. Morton said it had been suggested to him by several senators that the report of the Committee on Elections in regard to the President pro tempore of the Senate should have been accompanied by a resolution embracing the conclusions of the committee. He therefore submitted resolutions to that effect.

The following are the resolutions:

Resolved, That the term of a President *pro tempore* of the Senate elected at one session does not expire at the meeting of Congress after the first recess, the President not having appeared to take the chair.

Resolved, That the death of the Vice President does not have the effect to vacate the office of President *pro tempore* of the Senate.

Resolved, That the Hon. Thomas W. Ferry, the Senator from Michigan, who was elected President *pro tempore* of the Senate at the last session, is now President *pro tempore* by virtue of said election.

The first two were unanimously adopted, and the third was laid over.

HOUSE. Several bills and resolutions were introduced, including a resolution of the New Hampshire Legislature favoring specie payments.

Mr. Randall of Pennsylvania moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill which he offered, providing for a general amnesty. After the bill had been read, Mr. Blaine of Maine said a bill had been reported from the Centennial Committee, and he supposed that would have priority under the arrangement made a day or two ago. Mr. Randall said he had first got the floor, and he wanted this bill passed. He then demanded the previous question, and after it was seconded he said that the House had now had one hour for debate and he would give half of it to the other side. Mr. Garfield raised the point of order that the House did not give an hour for debate, as this bill was not the report of a committee. Mr. Banks of Massachusetts took the same view, and contended that they could have the yeas and nays ordering the main question. The main question was ordered by a vote of 163 yeas to 99 nays, a strict party vote. Mr. Randall asked the unanimous consent that an hour's debate be allowed. Mr. Garfield suggested that he couple that request with another to permit amendments to be offered. Mr. Randall refused, and Mr. Garfield then ojected. Mr. Blaine said it must be patent that the bill could not be passed, for they could not get the necessary two-thirds vote. He gave notice if the bill falled, he would, with the permission of the Chair, move to suspend the rules and bring the bill before the House for consideration, and would then offer his bill as a substitute. He thought this course would create a better feeling on all sides of the House, and avoid all further trouble. Mr. Randall said this identical bill had once passed a Republican House without so much as calling for the yeas and nays, and he could not see what had come over the spirit of the gentleman's dream. Mr. Blaine said: "The majority will not give an opportunity to vote upon the question of excluding Jeff Davis." Mr. Randall: "And you would not submit us to make any amendment to the Civil Rights bill." The main question was then ordered on the passage of the bill, and it was defeated by a vote of 172 yeas to 97 nays, a two-third vote being required.

Mr. Blaine was then recognized, and he moved to re-consider the vote last taken. He said he would offer his amendment as a substitute, which excludes Jefferson Davis, and requires all who desire amnesty to go before a United States Judge and take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States. He proposed to show that the party which controlled the country in the war has been more merciful and humane than any conquerer ever was before to the conquered. At the close of the war did the Republican party ostracise the people? Did they confiscate their property? Did they murder and rob? From a close estimate the list of those remaining under disability would not exceed 750. He was frank to say he knew of no reason why amnesty should not be granted. He did not wish, however, to impose citizenship on any one. He referred to the case of Robert Toombs of Georgia, who had boasted in this country and Europe that he wouldn't have American citizenship. Was it to be forced upon him? If Mr. Toombs could stand it he supposed the country could.

Mr. Blaine then referred to the case of Jeff Davis. He did not except Mr. Davis because he was head and front of the rebellion, nor because he was the most powerful or dangerous man in the confederation. He objected to Davis because he was the author knowingly, willingly and vindictively of the gigantic murders at the Andersonville prison. He drew a parallel between these crimes and the horrible atrocities perpetrated by the Duke of Alva in the Low Counties, the massacre of St. Bartholomew and the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition. In arraigning Davis as the author of these horrors, he would not ask the House to accept the testimony of Union officers or soldiers; but of men who were in the Confederate service or its sympathizers. He held in his hands a report signed by both Republicans and Democrats, and read from it, depicting all manners of crimes and horrors that had been committed.

Mr. Cook of Georgia said there were thousands in the South who would testify differently.

Mr. Blaine said he would take issue with that assertion; he continued speaking at considerable length in the same strain.

Mr. Cox obtained the floor and said the gentlemen from Maine had seen fit to tear away the mask of prudence. There is no precedent in history and no canon in the moral law which the present minority has not outraged. The history of the Republican party is a history of rapine. In this year of grace and jubilee it issues another manifesto for some peculiar purpose which will probably soon appear. Mr. Cox continued to speak at considerable length in refutation of the charges made by Mr. Blaine. He said the gentleman (Mr. Blaine) defends all the acts of the Republican party because it was so magnanimous a thing. Why, gentlemen, (addressing the Democrats) they allowed you all to come back. Why, God bless us all. (Laughter.) The Republicans, by the grace of the gentleman from Maine, allowed you to come here. Down on your knees to His Majesty from Maine. (Renewed laughter.) Mr. Cox continued, and some passages ensued between Mr. Blaine and himself, and caused much amusement. Mr. Cox related the history of the amnesty bills, and argued that the Forty-first Congress was allowed to sleep in the reconstruction of the Forty-second Congress. Mr. Blaine said there was a sort of sentiment among Republicans then that if the amnesty bill passed the Democrats would not object to the civil rights bill. Was that the understanding? Messrs. Randall and Cox both replied that it was. Mr. Kelley then spoke in favor of the bill, and made an eloquent speech in favor of making this centennial year a year of jubilee and general amnesty to all. At the conclusion of his remarks Mr. Hill of Georgia obtained the floor, but yielded to a motion to adjourn.

TUESDAY, JAN. 11.

SENATE. Several petitions and memorials were presented and referred.

After the expiration of the morning hour, Mr. Cooper of Tennessee announced the death of his late colleague, Andrew Johnson, and pronounced an eulogy.

Mr. Morton of Ind. spoke of the life and character of Mr. Johnson and declared that he was a brave and honest man. He referred to the vote for his impeachment which he gave, and said that he had no apology to make. He believed Mr. Johnson had violated law, but he was willing to let the memory of what he regarded as his faults to be buried with him and remember only his services to his country.

Appropriate remarks were made by Messrs. McCreery, Merrimon, Paddock, Bogy, Jones of Florida, Bayard and Key, after which the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE. In the House, bills were introduced and referred.

Mr. Atkins of Tenn., from the appropriation committee, reported the pension appropiation bill. It appropriates $25,533,-000.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the amnesty bill and was addressed by Mr. Hill of Georgia.

He disclaimed any intention to reopen the war between the North and South, and it was not his business to defend the career of Jefferson Davis in generul. His record was already made up and history would record a just verdict. But he claimed that the gentleman from Maine had not proved his charge that Davis was privy to the murders at Andersonville. His only proof was the report of an ex-parte committee and Mr. Davis had not been allowed to be heard. He quoted a law passed by the confederate congress providing equal rations to prisoners as to soldiers, which he said had been approved by Mr. Davis. He claimed that the prisoners were treated as well as the confederate troops, and whatever privations they suffered were also suffered by the troops.

During his speech Blaine interrupted him and asked him (Hill) whether he had not been a member of the confederate senate.

Hill replied that he had been

Blaine then proceeded to quote a resolution offered in the confederate congress by Senator Hill of Georgia to the following effect:

That every person pretending to be a soldier or officer of the United States who shall be captured on the soil of the confederate states after the 1st of Jan. 1863, shall be presumed to have entered the territory of confederate states with intent to incite insurrection and to abet murder, and that unless satisfactory proof be adduced to the contrary before a military court before which the trial shall be had, he shall suffer death.

He asked him wheather he was the author of that resolution.

Mr. Hill—I will say to the gentleman from Maine very frankly that I have not the slightest recollection of hearing it before.

Mr. Blaine—You do not deny it.

Mr. Hill—I do not know. My own opinion is that I never was the author of the resolution, but I have no recollection of it. If the gentleman can give me the circumstances under which it was introduced, I may recollect.

Mr. Blaine—On the 1st of Oct. 1862, the Judiciary Committee of the Confederate Congress made a report and offered a series of resolutions, and thereupon Senator Hill of Ga. is recorded as having offered the resolution which I have just read.

Mr. Hill—I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, and very likely, like the chairman on rules at the last session, I may have consented to that report.

Blaine—Does the gentleman admit that he made that report.

Hill—I do not, but it is very likely.

Blaine—The copy which I have quoted from is entitled "Republicanism in America." I wish to know whether the gentleman was the author of that resolution.

Hill—I reply that I do not recollect.

Blaine—(persistently). The gentleman does not say that he was not the author of it.

Hill—I do not, but I think I was not the author of it.

Blaine—I thought that as the gentleman's effort was to show the humane character of the Confederate congress this might aid him in remembering the facts.

Hill—With all dne reference to the gentleman he did not think any such thing. He thought he would divert me from the purpose of my argument.

Blaine—(Apologetically.) Oh. no. The gentleman can have all the time he wants.

Hill—What measures the Confederate Government may have thought proper to take at that time to protect women and children I do not recollect, but I shall not be diverted by the gentleman from Maine from the course of my argument to go into the history of slavery or the insurrection or John Brown's raid.

As Mr. Hill finished his speech Mr. Garfield of Ohio, took the floor, when the debate was interrupted by a message from the Senate announcing the action of that body in connection with the death of President Johnson.

Mr. McFarland of Tennessee offered the usual resolutions of respect, and the proceedings of the day were closed with speeches in eulogy of Mr. Johnson, made by Messrs. McFarland, Thornberg, and Young of Tenn., Waddell of North Carolina, Conger of Michigan, Cox of New York, and Morton of Texas.

☞The "Society for the Prevention and Detection of crime" held their annual meeting at the Lake Hotel, North Bridgton, last Saturday evening. There was a large attendance. J. S. Webb was elected President. A Financial Committe was also chosen, and 16 Riders. When a horse or other property belonging to a member is stolen, the President immediately notifies the Riders, who at once set out on the trail, and are paid $1.-50 a day while thus on duty. The Society now numbers several hundred members; it was first organized in 1814, at North Bridgton, and has continued to exist until now. And all this time—more than half a century—only one thief has escaped, and but one article of property has failed to be recovered which have come within their jurisdiction.—*News.*

☞The New York Sun has recovered six cents damages for the encroachment of the new Tribune building upon the premises of Mr. Dana and his associates. The outer wall of the Tribune building, it appears, cuts off about six inches of a corner belonging to the Sun, and this valuable piece of real estate has been recovered after a law suit. The Sun now demands $1000 for the property—about $13 a square inch, $1872 a foot—and the Tribune prefers to cut out an angle of six inches in the outer wall, which is four feet thick.

Dr. Pierce.

From the Toledo Blade.

"Success is never achieved without merit. A man may make a poor article and sell it once, and there being 40,000,000 people in the United States, the sale to each one would be enough to make a decent fortune. But an article that holds the field year after year, and the sales of which increase regularly and rapidly, must have absolute merit.

Dr. R. V. PIERCE, of Buffalo, N. Y., occupies our entire eighth page to-day with his various articles. We admit it, because we know the Doctor, and know of his articles. We know him to be a regularly educated physician, whose diploma hangs on the wall of his office, and we know that he has associated with him several of the most eminent practitioners in the country. We know that parties consult him, by mail and in person, from all the States in the Union every day, and that they are fairly and honestly dealt with.

This grand result has been accomplished by two agencies—good, reliable articles—articles which, once introduced, work easily their own way—and splendid business managment. They have succeeded because they ought to have succeeded."

If you would patronize Medicines, scientifically prepared by a skilled Physician and Chemist, use Dr. Pierce's Family Medicines. Golden Medical Discovery is nutritious, tonic, alterative, and blood-cleansing, and an unequaled Cough Remedy; Pleasant Purgative Pellets, scarcely larger than mustard seeds, constitute an agreeable and reliable physic; Favorite Prescription, a remedy for debil tated females; Extract of Smart Weed, a magical remedy for Pain, Bowel Complaints, and an unequaled Liniment for both human and horse-flesh; while

Poetry.

Home-Coming.

When brothers leave the old hearthstone
And go, each one, a separate way,
We think, as we go on alone
Along our pathway, day by day,
Of olden scenes and faces dear;
Of voices that we miss so much,
And memory brings the absent near,
Until we almost feel the touch
Of loving hands, and hear, once more,
The dear old voices ringing out,
As in that happy time of yore,
Ere life had caught a shade of doubt.

If you should place against your ear
The shell you plundered from the sea,
Down in its hidden heart you'd hear
A low and tender melody,
A murmur of the restless tide,
A yearning, born of memory,
And, though its longings be denied,
The shell keeps singing of the sea.
And sometimes when old memories throng,
Like ghosts, the chambers of our soul,
We feel the yearning, deep and strong,
A longing we cannot control,
To lay our cares and business by
And seek the old, familiar ways,
And cross home's threshold, and sit down
With comrades of our earlier days.

For, though our paths are sundered wide.
We feel that we are brothers yet,
And by and by we turn aside
From hurrying care and worldly fret,
And each one wanders back to meet
His brother by the hearth of home:
I think the meeting is more sweet,
Because so far and wide we roam.
We cross the lengthening bridge of years,
Meet outstretched hands and faces true;
The silent eloquence of tears
Speaks welcome that no words could do.

But ah, the meetings hold regret!
The sad, sad story, often told,
Of hands that ours have often met,
Close folded under churchyard mould,
Of eyes that smiled into our own,
Closed in the dreamless sleep of God;
A sweeter rest was never known
Than theirs beneath the grave's white sod.
A tender thought for them to-night,
A tribute tear from memory;
Beneath their covering of white
Sweet may their dreamless slumber be.

Our Story Teller.

A COUNTRY CHORISTER.

"It is the case," said Jane, "of the sheep that tumbled over the precipice, and the whole flock rushed pell-mell after it. Of course our little ewe lamb couldn't be expected to escape the ridiculous infection."

At this obscure hyperbole Mrs. Fairfield opened wide her eyes and looked at her eldest daughter in bewilderment.

"It's plain to be seen," pursued Jane, "that Dora's head over ears in love with Miles Van Dorn, like all the other fools in the parish!"

Mrs. Fairfield quite blushed at this bold assertion.

"I'm ashamed of you, Jane," she said, severely. "Dora's a mere child, and has no more idea of that kind than a babe in arms. I should think you'd have more delicacy than to accuse your sister of giving her love unsought."

"That's all balderdash, mother," said the practical Jane. "I don't profess to know much about the tender passion, but the little attention I've bestowed upon it proves to me that it holds itself quite beyond the volition of its victims. Her failing to gain the approbation of this piping shepherd is the only thing that gives me a hope of quenching her love for him."

"Nonsense, Jane," said her mother. "Of course she respects him—we all do; but as for love—"

"As for love," repeated Jane, "I never saw a more decided case of infatuation in my life. The way she hung upon every note of his at the singing school to-night was simply distracting."

"She's fond of music," pleaded the mother.

"Yes, and for that reason," said Jane, "she should have listened with anything but delight. His voice is passable, merely passable; in the high notes it fails ignominiously. But high or low, true or false, upon every note Dora hung enraptured. I felt a chill creep down my vertebræ as I looked at her."

Jane Fairfield was the eldest of the two daughters of the village schoolmaster, and had, years since, left the paternal roof and gone up to the city in search of fortune. Steadily eschewing more æsthetic but less profitable employment, she had served a long apprenticeship to the dress-making business, and having graduated with an artist in that line at the metropolis, she counted her future safe in her own hands. Devoting herself to her needle and shears, the world dwindled down to a small compass with Jane, and time fled speedily by. Once a fortnight she ran down home, and heartily enjoyed what domestic amusement she could glean there—advised and harangued her mother, scolded and drilled her little sister, accepted reluctantly the benign patronage of her father, and, looking around upon the village folks, devoutly thanked heaven that she was not as other people are.

In all dispositions like Jane's there must be one element predominating; her nature was too strong to be diffusive. It was necessary there should be a concentrating point. With her it was ambition. Not for herself—that was given up long ago with a bitterness that partook of scorn. Nothing could be done without a reasonable capital, and poor Jane had a scrawny figure, a harsh voice, and a general *tout-ensemble* that possessed more character than grace. That portion of Jane's life which the French gracefully term the beauty of youth had been frittered away in the struggle for independence, so that Jane had ceased to hope for any personal joy; but it had become a delight to her to fancy that something might come of Dora.

When her sister was but a child it chanced that she sang a simple little ballad within hearing of a professional friend of Jane's, who fell into raptures over the pure clear notes, and declared there was the germ of a fine, of perhaps an extraordinary, voice. Jane cherished this semblance of promise, and as soon as Dora was old enough she was brought to the city twice a week and placed in a professor's hands, as docile a little pupil as that ardent lover of music could desire. And the child grew lovable as the years went by—lovable and, above all, lovely; above all with Jane, as it was the one thing she held altogether without approach. She had been known in one of her audacious flights to declare the result of genius could be attained by application, but nothing had ever been found that quite took the place of beauty. So the energetic spinster gloated on Dora's fresh young loveliness, upon the lithe pliant form, the shifting lights in her hair, the wonderful color that was never the same from one minute to another—now faint and fading rapidly, now bright, vivid, increasing in intensity, until it glowed like a flame, then fleeting again like the gorgeous tints of an evening sky.

The music lessons went on, the professor became more and more encouraging, and poor Jane reveled in a fool's paradise. Heaven knows what lofty aspirations took shape in her mind. When her establishment was closed, and Jane, who could well afford it, took a hack to the stylish boarding house where her nights were spent, she allowed her busy hands a resting spell; they lay idly in the folds of her well-fitting robe, while her imagination wove many a fanciful dream of the future. The dream generally culminated in a spacious hall crowded from pit to dome with a full-dress audience, each man and woman of them all breathlessly intent upon catching every note that fell from the lips of a marvelously lovely creature bending and swaying upon the great stage before them, shaking out from her pretty throat thrill after thrill, each one more wonderful than the last, until, driven to enthusiasm by this witchery, they rise from their seats, and fling flowers and jewelry at the feet of this beautiful magician.

Jane was in full tide of these visionary delights when, in that summer holiday at home, she went with her young sister to the choir meeting. No other gathering could have tempted her from the paternal hearth; but there was a sort of malicious sipping from the cup of nectar in hearing Dora sing in the village choir. Jane fancied these simple villagers were entertaining an angel unawares, and unconsciously doing homage to a melody that would one day enchant the world.

But suddenly the exquisite notes were hushed, and looking over at Dora, Jane found her with clasped hands and rapt eyes, listening to a strain from Miles Van Dorn. And even when the strain was finished, Dora's eyes still rested upon him with an expression that caused that chill to run down the vertebræ of her sister Jane.

The next day Jane carried her young sister off with her to the city. She was a reluctant traveler, and drooped perceptibly every mile farther from home.

Although Jane persisted in drives and promenades, concerts and receptions, although she procured for Dora all the amusement that money and a respectable share of influence could obtain, Dora remained obstinately docile, but wearied.

"A decided case of ennui," said one of Jane's friends. "I've never seen that bored expression so perfect before. I'm afraid, Miss Fairfield, its genuine; your field daisy won't bear transplanting."

Jane winced at this, but bore it doggedly, until, three weeks later, the professor himself declared that the child must go home.

"Do you not see my friend of friends," cried the professor, "that even her voice is dwindling away? It is thin—thin to attenuation; there is no longer power nor compass. See, now, she must go back to the green fields and the daisies. It is a terrible sickness, this *mal du pays*. In the years that are gone. Mees Fairfield, I was near dying with it myself. To long for one's native sky, for the air that nourished the young life, you see."

"I don't see," said Jane, testily, looking at the poor old man with an air of stern contempt. "You needn't tell me it's all homesickness."

"Every bit of it, Mees Fairfield. Tell her now this night that she shall go home to-morrow, and let us mark the result."

So Jane dropped into Dora's listless ear a few magical words, of which one was "home," and forthwith that treacherous color leaped to Dora's cheek, her lips trembled. "Oh, Jane!" she murmured, and two big tears of joy fell out of her trembling eyes.

One little hour after, she sang divinely to the professor's accompaniment. That good man clasped his hands and looked upward with devout enthusiasm.

"*Ach schon!*" he said, "*wunderschon!*" and the exclamation was a volume in itself. It prophesied success and glory, the fulfillment of all their dreams.

"I suppose it *might* be homesickness," whispered Jane to herself, consolingly, "there's so much of maudlin sentimentality in some natures. If this old idiot of a professor babbles thus of green fields and daisies, why shouldn't it be for Dora?"

All the way home, however, a moody skepticism weighed upon the soul of Jane, and it was not until Dora had partaken with spirit of the delicacies provided for the evening meal, and nestled close to her mother's side in the evening twilight, singing softly but joyously a little hymn they all loved, that Jane was allowed to fully rest upon the thought that it was only homesickness, after all, that ailed Dora.

But even as they sat there, hemmed in with ropes of tangled shrubs, the fragrant scent of a hop vine slyly steeping the practical soul of Jane to semi-intoxication, Dora's sweet voice seemingly a part of the dew and the twilight, and all of it wondrously resting to the poor tired *modiste* from town—even then a big shadow loomed up before them, and a rather harsh, rasping voice said, "I've come to bid you good-by."

Jane cast one look at Dora. The rosy lips of the child were still parted with the last note of the song, her little white hands stretched forth unconsciously to the newcomer, and a faint echo of the word "Good-by" reached Jane.

"Why, dear me!" said Mrs. Fairfield: "I never thought to tell you that Mr. Van Dorn is going away. Ralph Peyton has coaxed him off to his church in the city to be chorister there; and our folks don't like it a bit either. But I suppose it's best for Mr. Van Dorn: there ain't much chance for getting ahead here. What with fagging at the village store all day, and teaching school at night, I can't see when he gets a chance to read law; but I believe he does it, somehow or other."

"That is one reason I can't stop and talk with my friends like other folks," said Mr. Van Dorn, "but can only find time to say good-by. I shall miss Miss Dora's voice in my choir. It is always full and rich: but I never noticed till to-night the haunting sweetness about it, that gets by the senses into the soul, and stays there when the music is fled."

"Hum!" said Jane; "you'll never make much of a lawyer if you din such stuff as that into people's ears."

"I don't give way to it often," said Van Dorn, laughingly, and made his way over to Mrs. Fairfield and Dora. Suddenly Jane saw the slender figure of her sister stagger a few steps toward the door and then sink forward. Jane sprang to catch the falling form, but Van Dorn already held her in his arms, and lifting her into the sitting room, placed her gently on the old chintz-covered lounge near the window.

"It is the heat, I think," said Van Dorn, with a flush of surprise and alarm in his face.

"Yes," said Jane, bitterly, "it is the heat, and you'd better get away; the fewer people we have here devouring the air the better."

Van Dorn cast one more lingering puzzled, pitying look upon Dora's prostrate form, then went away.

Dora soon recovered consciousness, and said no word of complaint; only asking that she might go to her room at once.

"I wonder what ailed Dora?" said Mrs. Fairfield, when they had put the child to bed, and descended again to the sitting room.

"Oh, mother," said poor Jane, "get away, and leave me to myself a while! Whatever ailed her, it couldn't have been homesickness, could it?" Then she laughed sardonically. And Mrs. Fairfield declared, as she got out of her eldest daughter's presence, that if there was one thing more than another she hated, it was that nasty scoffing way Jane had.

Taking the early train in the morning, Jane resolved she would remain in the city till affairs had settled into the pleasant shape Van Dorn's absence would naturally bring about.

A month passed away, however, and there was no word of cheer from home. A few lines scrawled upon an expanse of paper at length told her that Dora was unable to write, and that even the music lessons must be discontinued. A kind of debility had siezed upon Dora, Mrs. Fairfield wrote, that took away her strength and appetite.

Jane fumed and fretted over this bulletin, and the forewoman of her establishment declared there was no pleasing Miss Fairfield nohow. Miss Slopkins' evening silk fitted her to perfection that she looked as if she was melted and poured into it; but there was no pleasing Miss Fairfield nohow.

As the weeks went by, the messages from home became more and more lugubrious, and at last there was a hint that some of Dora's ancestors had been affected similarly at Dora's age, and that Jane knew consumption was in the family.

At this dire word the letter fell from Jane's trembling hand. Like many healthy, vigorous organizations, she shuddered when the knowledge was forced in upon her that somewhere there was lurking a fell destroyer capable of swooping down upon any prey, foul or fair, that might seize his fancy. She became enraged, of course, with what she called her mother's imbecility, and wrote back to her never to dare mention that word again, that if it ever had been in the family, it was the old-fashioned kind that people throve upon and lived with to a ridiculous old age.

Jane said "it" all through the letter, then became so terrified with this little monosyllable that she tore the paper into fragments, sent a telegram to her forewoman, and started in the afternoon train for home.

Dora looked so beautiful to Jane that she could not persuade herself she was at all out of health. Her eyes shone like sapphires, and her cheeks wore so brilliant a glow that Jane took courage, and began to believe that all would yet be well.

For a week or two Dora seemed to gain strength again. Jane's sharp yet genial company was like a tonic to the failing health of the child, and she was even able to go to church once more. But her step was faltering and slow, and the powerful, imperious notes that had once filled the church with rare rich melody were lost in a faint sweet shadows of their former selves. Tremblingly and low they fell upon Jane's listening ear, and smote upon her heart till it was like to burst. Then the pitying glances of the good country folks, the dainties showered in upon her day by day for her failing appetite, above all, the unearthly beauty that seemed to shape itself about Dora before Jane's terrified eyes—all these drove the poor woman to desperation, and she found herself praying for relief in any shape. She wished from the bottom of her heart that this man Van Dorn loved Dora, as the poor child was foolish enough to become a prey to a hereditary malady simply because this one strong element of her life was thwarted.

But Jane could find no proof of this either in the past or the present. He had simply been civil, perhaps kinder to Dora at times than to others, because nobody could help being kind to her.

But how to inveigle this fellow to Dora's feet? It was a most unpromising and hateful task. What an aggravation to misery to plot and plan for a result that will only be bearable as a means of saving life? As far as all those bright dreams of Jane's went, it would snuff them out like the extinguisher of a candle. But life, sweet life, must be saved from the wreck. If that were over-past for Dora, then would it be worse than worthless to Jane.

Of course the instrument must be money. This was the lever that moved the world. Miles Van Dorn was ambitious; he was also poor, struggling, hemmed in with difficulties on all sides. Jane could afford to pay well for the overthrow of her own ambition, and thus foster that of Miles Van Dorn.

She went to town, and from thence drove out to the parsonage of Ralph Peyton, which was but a short distance from the suburbs of the metropolis.

Entering the snug little study, it gave her a singular shock to see the shapely form of Miles Van Dorn bent over a huge volume of legal lore. She expected to see him, and really chose the evening for her visit to favor this presumption; but, nevertheless, to have thus before her this fleshy agent the fates had chosen for her discomfiture gave her a shock of dismay.

Calm and cold, always seemingly well dressed, whatever the material or cut of his apparel, Jane vaguely approved of his personal appearance. It was creditable—amazingly so—for a Van Dorn! He seemed politely desirous of news from his late abiding-place, but kept his long front finger on the page of his book, and glanced longingly thither from time to time. At last Ralph's step was heard in the hall, and immediately upon the young minister's entrance he turned again to legal study. He bowed politely when Jane left, but looked to Ralph to do the honors of her departure.

Jane paused at the outer door.

"Ralph," she said. "I came here with a purpose, but my heart failed me. The fact is, this is a terrible blow to me."

"What is a terrible blow, Jane?"

"Why, this foolish madness of Dora's. I don't believe, mark you, she's dying for love, but she's naturally delicate, and has been spoiled all her life. Whatever it is, she's wasting away, Ralph, and I can't bear it; it kills me. You know, don't you, Ralph," said Jane, with her foot on the step of the carriage, that all I have will be hers sometime? and it's no palty trifle, I can tell you."

Then she drove away, leaving Ralph gazing after her with almost a ludicrous air of bewilderment. He walked with a slow, halting steps to the study, and sank into a chair, with a heavy sigh.

Miles looked over inquiringly.

"Have you heard anything to disturb you?" he said.

"Yes, Miles," replied Ralph, impatiently. "Do put by that plodding of yours and give me some advice. You know I boarded in the schoolmaster's family when I preached out there.

Miles nodded.

"Well, you also know what an impulsive fellow I am. Oh, Miles, if I only had your coldness and reserve! I'm afraid I've unconsciously gained the affection of the schoolmaster's daughter."

"Miss Fairfield—the lady that was here just now?" inquired Miles.

"No!" roared Ralph. "How could you suppose such a thing? I mean Dora, little Dora—dear, gentle, sweet little Dora. To think of it, Miles! She was a mere child that one couldn't help petting and caressing. You certainly must remember her well. She sang, didn't she, in your choir?"

Miles looked at his friend, and a heat gradually gathered in his eyes, in his voice; even the forefinger that rested in the huge book of legal lore trembled.

"Go on," he said calmly. "Of course she sang in my choir. I do remember her well. Go on!"

"'Go on?'" repeated Ralph. "It's all very well to say 'go on,' but what am I to do? Her sister has just told me that she's wasting away. You know she's delicate anyway, Miles, and she can't bear my departure from there. Dear, dear little Dora!"

"Do you mean to say that Dora Fairfield is actually ill in—in your behalf?" said Miles.

"Her sister told me so just now, and she ought to know. What was she to do? This confidence is excusable on her part, Miles; she idolizes Dora. How can she help it? Dear little rose of wild wood!—to think I should have unwittingly won her love!"

Miles grew visibly paler.

"It seems to me I can remember now," he said, closing the book, and leaning his head upon his hand, "that when she fainted in my arms that night it was after the sudden mention of your name."

"Fainted!" cried Ralph; "I never heard of that. Why didn't you tell me?"

"I never talk of those things," said Miles, coldly; "but as corroborative testimony it is of course, valuable."

"What am I to do?" exclaimed Ralph. "She mustn't perish, Miles; that would be terrible. Wouldn't you go to her at once if you were in my place?"

A smile of an icy bitterness touched the lips of Miles Van Dorn. "Yes," he said coldly, "if I were in your place, I should go to her."

Ralph started to his feet. "Will you go over, Miles," he said, "the first thing in the morning, and ask Jane—Miss Fairfield—to go down with me? I am afraid the shock might be injurious to Dora. Jane can tell her, you know. You will go, won't you, Miles?"

It was a matter of wonderment to Miles, afterward how he was induced to do such a thing; but certainly he did find himself, after a sleepless night, at the door of Jane's boarding house, and actually sent up his card by the servant.

Jane arose early that morning because of anxious thoughts that also drove sleep from her eyes. Slowly and ploddingly she went on with her toilet, a look of despair shaping itself in her face. For the first time in years a prayer forced itself from her lips. "Let this cup pass from me!" cried poor Jane. "Don't let Dora die!"

And at that moment a servant knocked at the door, and put a card into her hand. Jane started and turned pale as she read "Miles Van Dorn." She went down stairs, firmly persuaded that the whole thing was a dream.

Miles got upon his feet when she came in, with the awkward conviction that his presence there was an intrusion, and his errand an impertinence. "I am sent here by Mr. Peyton," he said briefly, "to ask if you will accompany him down to your house in the country this morning. He proposes starting as early as possible."

"As a minister?" cried Jane, "Does he dare to think of hastening the poor child's doom by telling her that she is going to die? Great heaven!" said Jane becoming more and more excited. "He can do her no possible good. There is only one person in the world that can—" Jane paused abruptly.

The slumbering heat in the eyes of Miles Van Dorn leaped into a blaze. "And that person is not, then, Ralph?" he asked eagerly.

"Why, the monstrous egotism of the fellow!" said Jane, laughing with the air of one to whom laughing is unfamiliar. "Of course it isn't. How could he dream of such a thing?"

"It is natural sometimes to fall into errors," said Miles, a gradual agitation be traying itself in his ordinarily cold and measured tones. "I have myself been driven to think of this subject; it has, entirely against my judgment, absorbed much of my time. Since that night Miss Dora fainted I have found it impossible to keep her from my thoughts. You will pardon my determination to discover this party who can be of benefit to your young sister if I confess to you, Miss Fairfield—" Miles paused; a sudden impulse of passion swept away all his rhetoric. He went over to Jane. "I love Dora," he cried; "I love her with my whole heart and soul. Now tell me, who is this party of whom you speak?"

"Why, then, God bless you, Miles Van Dorn!" said Jane, the tears bursting from her burning eyes; "that party is yourself!"

These tears, seemingly wrung from an unwilling source, melted the heart of Miles Van Dorn. "Miss Fairfield—Jane," he said, "it has not been my fault that Dora has suffered. I have not dared to think of love; it has not been a part of my plan of life. It did not seem possible—I did not know—"

"But you know now;" said Jane. "Hasten back to Ralph, tell him the little mistake he had made, and meet me at the train."

Needless to tell of the interview between Miles and Ralph, or strive to paint the rapture of Jane when she was able to give into her darling's hands the elixir of life in the old shape of love.

Jane had the felicity afterward to see Dora, dressed in a marvelous mixture of lace and illusion, singing to thousands of people who hung entranced upon her voice, But it was not as a *cantatrice* she sang, nor altogether to further the delight and ambition of her good sister Jane; it was at a charity concert, as the wife of the eminent judge and jurist Miles Van Dorn.—*Harper's Magazine.*

A Duel on Horseback.

The following singular duel is recorded in the Invo (Cal.) Independent of March 7:—At Round Valley on Wednesday last, T. E. Lewis and W. T. Wiswall quarreled at the ranch of the former about some hogs. As no satisfactory solution of the difficulty could be attained by war of words and fists, Wiswall retired from the field of action with the intention of coming back better prepared for business. He did so reappearing a short time afterward with a six-shooter. Lewis armed with a shotgun, mounted his war horse and sallied forth to meet him. Manœuvering a short time for position, both parties opened fire. Lewis' shot did no good, but Wiswall's took effect in the neck of his opponent's horse, cutting the bridle rein at the same time, together rendering him unmanageable. But the Lewis banner still floated defiantly to the breeze, and continued to do so even after a shot from the enemy had taken effect near the sciatic plexus, or that portion of the body nearest the cantle of the saddle. This was unpleasent, but not sufficient to prevent the wounded man, then dismounted, from firing another broadside, with the effect of bringing the action to a close, the enemy drawing off, but still unharmed. Lewis' wound is quite severe, but not considered particular dangerous.

☞ The grace of God falls so lightly on some people, the world will never be illuminated by their holiness.

☞ The man who called the striped croquet stockings "barber pole hose" has had his hair pulled.

La Tour D'Auvergne.

THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE.

Until the year 1814, there was a touching and beautiful custom to be witnessed in a certain regiment of French Grenadiers, which was meant to commemorate the heroism of a departed comrade. When the companies assembled for parade, and the rolls were called, there was one name to which its owner could not answer. It was that of La Tour d'Auvergne. When it was called, the oldest Sergeant stepped a pace forward, and raising his hand to his cap, said proudly, "Died on the field of honor." For fourteen years this custom was continued, and only ceased when the restored Bourbons, to please their foreign masters, forbade everything that was calculated to preserve the spirit of the soldiers of France.

La Tour d'Auvergne was not unworthy in life the honor thus paid him after his death. He was educated for the army, entered in 1758, and in 1781 served under the Duke de Crillion at the seige of Port Mahon. He always served with distinction, but constantly refused promotion, saying that he was only fit for the command of a company of Grenadiers; but finally, the various grenadier companies being united, he found himself in command of a body of 8,000 men, while retaining only the rank of captain. But it is of one particular exploit of his, more than his career in general, that I wish to write.

When he was over forty years old, he went on a visit to a friend not far from that section of the country that was soon to become the scene of a bloody campaign. While there, he was busy acquainting himself with the features of the country, thinking it not nullikely that this knowledge might be of use to him some day; and while there the brave grenadier was astonished to learn that the war had rapidly been shifted to this quarter, and that a regiment of Austrians were pushing on to occupy a narrow pass about ten miles from where he was staying, and the possession of which would give them an opportunity to prevent an important movement of the French which was then on foot. They hoped to surprise this post, and were moving so rapidly upon it that they were not more than two hours distant from the place where he was staying, and which they would have to pass in their march.

It matters not how he heard the news. It is sufficient to say that he determined at once to act upon it. He had no idea of being captured by the enemy in their advance, and he at once set off for the pass.—He knew that the pass was defended by a stout tower and a garrison of thirty men, and he hoped to be able to warn the men of their danger. He hastened on, and arriving there, found the tower in perfect condition. It had just been vacated by the garrison, who heard of the approach of the Austrians, and had been seized by a panic threat, and had fled, leaving even their arms, consisting of thirty excellent muskets.

La Tour d'Auvergne gnashed his teeth with rage as he discovered this. Searching in the building, he found several boxes of ammunition which the cowards had not destroyed. For a moment he was in despair, and then, with a grim smile, he began to fasten the main door, and pile against it such articles as he could find. When he had done this, he loaded all the guns that he could find, and placed them, together with a good supply of ammunition, near the loopholes that co mmanded the road by which the enemy must advance. Then he ate heartily of the provisions he had brought with him, and sat down to wait. He had absolutely formed the heroic resolution to defend the tower alone against the enemy.

There were some things in his favor in such an undertaking. The pass was steep and narrow, and the enemy's troops could enter in only in double files, and in doing so would be fully exposed to the fire from the tower. The original garrison of thirty men could easily have held it against a division, and now one man was about to attempt to hold it against a regiment.

It was dark when La Tour d'Auvergne reached the tower, and he had to wait some time for the enemy. They were in danger in coming than he had expected, and for a while he was tempted to believe that they had abandoned the expedition. About midnight, however, his practiced ear caught the distant tramp of feet. Every moment the sound came nearer, and at last he heard them enter the defile. Immediately he discharged a couple of muskets into the darkness to let them know that he knew of their presence and intentions and he heard the quick commands of the officers, and from the sounds he supposed the troops were retiring from the pass. Until the morning he was undisturbed. The Austrian commander feeling sure that the garrison had been informed of his movements, and was prepared to receive him, saw that he could not surprise the post, as he had hoped to do, and deemed it prudent to wait until daylight before making the attack.

At sunrise he summoned the garrison to surrender. A grenadier answered the summons.

"Say to your commander," he answered, in reply to the messenger, "that the garrison will defend this post to the last extremity."

The officers who had borne the flag of truce retired, and in about ten minutes a piece of artillery was brought into the pass, and opened on the tower. But to effect this, the piece had to be placed directly in front of the tower, and in easy musket range of it. They had scarcely got the gun in position when a rapid fire was opened upon it from the tower, and continued with such marked effect that the piece was withdrawn, after the second discharge, with the loss of five men.

This was a bad beginning, so half an hour after the gun was withdrawn, the Austrian colonel ordered an assault. As the troops entered the defile they were received with a rapid and accurate fire, so that when they passed over half the distance they had to traverse they had lost fifteen men. Disheartened by this, they returned to the mouth of the defile.

Three more assaults were repulsed in this manner, and the enemy by sunset had lost forty-five men, ten of whom were killed.

The firing from the tower had been rapid and accurate, but the Austrian commander had noticed this peculiarity about it—every shot seemed to come from the same place. For a while this perplexed him, but at last he came to the conclusion that there were a number of loopholes close together in the tower so constructed as to command the ravine perfectly.

At sunset the last assault was made and repulsed, and at dark the Austrian commander sent a summons to the garrison.—This time the answer was favorable. The garrison offered to surrender at sunrise the next morning if allowed to march out with their arms, and returned to the army unmolested. After some hesitation the terms were accepted.

Meanwhile La Tour d'Auvergne had passed an anxious day in the tower. He had opened the fight with an armament of thirty loaded muskets, but had not been able to discharge them all. He had fired with amazing rapidity, and with surpising accuracy, for it was well known in the army that he never threw away a shot. He had determined to stand at his post until he had accomplished his end, which was to hold the place twenty-four hours, in order to give the French army time to complete the maneuvre. After that he knew the pass would be of no consequence to the enemy. When the demand for a surrender came to him after the last assault, he consented to it upon the condition I have named.

The next day, at sunrise, the Austrian troops lined the pass in two files, extending from the mouth to the tower, leaving a place between them for the garrison to pass out.

The heavy door of the tower opened slowly, and in a few minutes, a bronzed and scarred grenadier, literally loaded down with muskets, came out and passed down the lines of troops. He walked with difficulty under his heavy load, but there was a proud and satisfied look on his face.

To the surprise of the Austrians no one followed him from the tower. In astonishment the Austrian Colonel rode up to him and asked in French why the garrison did not come.

"I am the garrison, Colonel," said the soldier, proudly.

"What!" exclaimed the Colonel, "do you mean to tell me that you alone have held that tower against me?"

"I have had that honor, Colonel," was the reply.

"What possessed you to make such an attempt, grenadier?"

"The honor of France was at stake."

The Colonel gazed at him for a moment with undisguised admiration. The raising his cap, he said, warmly:

"Grenadier, I salute yon. You have proved yourself to-day the bravest of the brave."

The officer caused all the arms which La Tour d'Auvergne could not carry, to be collected, and sent them all with the grenadier into the French lines, together with a note relating the whole affair. When the knowledge of it came to the ears of Napoleon, he offered to promote La Tour d'Auvergne; but the latter declined to accept the promotion, saying that he preferred to remain where he was.

The brave soldier met his death in an action at Ouerhausen, in Bavaria, in June, 1800, and the simple but expressive scene at roll-call in his regiment was commenced and continued by the express command of the Emperor himself.

Tunneling for Lunatics.

While the attention of the tax-payers in Massachusetts is fastening itself more and more on the extravagant outlay of their money on the Hoosac Tunnel, a word ought to be spoken also in exposition of another extravagance, less in amount, but equally needless. We speak of the costly palaces for the pauper insane of Massachusetts which the State is building at Worcester and Danvers. These two buildings, intended for less than 1000 patients in all, will certainly cost, their building and equipment, not less than $1,000,000 each; and perhaps $1,500,000. Let us call the cost of both $2,500,000; and proceed to make some calculations upon that estimate.

For housing each patient and providing him with a farm on which to work or ramble about, the tax payers of Massachusetts will then pay a "construction account" of $2500 at least, or for every ten patients $25,000. How many of these tax-payers live or can afford to live in houses so costly as this? Not one in a hundred. A house and garden costing $10,000 for the use of only four persons is a luxury in Massachusetts; yet the State is expending this sum on every four town paupers in the two new hospitals now building, and this, be it remembered, is merely for land, buildings and furniture; the current expenses for each patient being entirely excluded from the calculations. It entails on the State (at 6 per cent. interest on the outlay) an expense for rent or interest money amounting to $150 a year, or nearly $3 a week for each patient,—a sum for which many of them could be boarded in families, and properly cared for. Adding this to the actual cost of boarding them in these great palaces—not less than $3.50 a week—and we have a charge for each insane person of about $340 a year. The present average number of the insane poor in Massachusetts being more than 2000, this would make an outlay of $660,000 a year (or more than all the pauper expenses, for the sane and the insane, were, twenty years ago), if all these insane poor were supported in these costly quarters. And the 1000 insane, of all classes, for whom these two palaces are now building, will cost the state $150,000 a year for house rent, besides $200,000 a year, or more, for board—the average rate of board for patients of all classes being now more than $4 a week at Worcester. This sum of $150,000 the State treasury will pay, because the State builds and owns these hospitals—while the $200,000 will be paid in part by the tax-payers, and the rest by the friends of private patients, or by their estate.

Now look at some elements of the cost of these palaces. The apparatus for heating the hospital and cooking the food of the patients at the new Worcester hospital will not cost less than $40,000—more likely, than $40,000. This is $100 for every patient of the four or five hundred for whom the hospital is building—a sum that would provide every patient with a parlor stove costing $50, and a cooking stove costing $50. The fuel for warming the Worcester hospital will not be less than 1500 tons a year, which would allow for every four patients 12 tons, or a ton a month. The consumption of fuel is likely to exceed rather than to fall short of this amount.

Of the average number of patients at Worcester, this year (about 486), more than 330 are paupers, while of the 500, more or less, for whom the Danvers hospital is building, at least 400 will be paupers. Three-fourths of the tenants of these palaces will therefore be town and State paupers, nine-tenths of these 700 paupers will be chronically insane. What extravagance, then, to build these great asylums, and manage them on such a scale of expense, for a class of patients who would be more comfortable in much plainer quarters, and who could be much better cared for in smaller establishments! A recent English writer, Dr. Andrew Wynter, has this to say of the same state of things in Great Britian.

"This is the class of people that form at least 90 per cent. of the inhabitants of our asylums, chronic and incurable cases that no treatment will even improve, upon whom the elaborate and expensive classification and organization is entirely thrown away, and to whom the palatial character of the building in which they are immured not only affords no delight but is perfectly detestable. It is this class of patients, beyond human help, that now choke up the public asylums throughout the land, converting them from houses of cure into mere prisons. It will doubtless surprise the reader to be informed that out of the total number of 35,330 pauper-patients in county and borough asylums, and in registered hospitals, in the year 1874, nearly 32,500 were past all medical cure, whilst the curable amounted only to a little more than 10 per cent. When we consider the pressure put upon the rate-payers for the erection of large asylums, throughout the land, this result is so disastrous that it may be said our whole scheme for the cure of lunatic has utterly broken down. And the mischief is growing from day to day, for the chronic cases are eating up the miserable percentage of beds still open for the newly-arrived, acute cases. As the asylums are increasing in size, the very atmosphere within the walls may be said to be saturated with lunacy. They are becoming centers for the condensation and aggravation of the malady, rather than places of cure; just as the crowding a fever hospital makes the type of disease more malignant."

Dr. Wynter here points out (what is probably true of our Massachusetts insane asylums at the present time) that, with all their excellent appliances and good results in individual cases, the English asylums are really doing nothing to check the development of insanity, or to make it less burdensome to the community. They do not prevent, and they seldom cure insanity—seldom, that is, in comparison with the great mass of incurables which accumulates in them. Upon this point he says what we in Massachusetts would do well to consider:—

"It is capable of proof that lunacy is not increasing in a greater ratio than the population, but, still, the insane flow into these asylums quicker than the old inmates die The very imposing appearance of these establishments acts as an advertisement to draw patients towards them. If we make a convenient lumber-room, we all know how speedily it becomes filled up with lumber. The county asylum is the mental lumber-room of the surrounding district; friends are only too willing, in their poverty, to place away the human encumbrance of the family in a palatial building at the county expense. Some of these have become so large that anything like individual treatment of the patients is quite out of the question. They have ceased to be houses for the cure of mental disease, and have subsided substantially into mere houses of detention.—And not only have they outgrown their curative capabilities, but they have, also, degenerated from that high standard as houses of mercy and pity to which Conolly would have them raised.—*Springfield Republican.*

Five Hundred Miles Without a Crew.

Our readers remember that the ship Western Empire was caught in the great storm three days after clearing from Pensacola, was dismasted, water-logged and abandoned about 150 miles from here, and that seven of her crew were drowned endeavoring to land on the Florida coast, near Appalachicola. The abandoned ship has been found, after making a voyage of more than five hundred miles without a hand at her helm. Caught in the reflux current, which must have set out southward from the bight of Florida after the storm which drove a surcharge of water up into the angle formed by the peninsular coast-line, the masterless ship drifted within the influence of the gulf stream, was swept through the straits of Florida and on toward the Atlantic until she was discovered thirty miles north of Jupiter Inlet swinging to an anchor. When we reported the disaster it was stated that in order to enable the holsting out of the boats both anchors were let go to act as a drag to bring the ship's head to the wind. The length of the chain allowed was thirty-five fathoms. Thus the ship has piloted herself remarkably well in navigating round this dangerous coast of Florida with its keys and reefs, in never less than 210 feet of water, until her anchor finally reached bottom and brought her to in one of the most frequented of ocean pathways. But for her anchors swinging overboard the ship would probably have gone on with the stream to the coasts of Europe.—*Pensacola (Fla.) Gazeete.*

☞ A farmer, having buried his wife, waited upon the grave digger, who had performed the necessary duties, to pay him his fees. Being of a niggardly disposition he endeavored to get the knight of the spade to abate his charges. The patience of the latter becoming exhausted, he grasped his shovel impulsively, and, with an angry look, exclaimed: "Doon wi' another shilling, or up she comes?" The threat had the desired effect.

☞ Pat bought a sheep's head, and was writing down the receipt for cooking it, when a dog made off with it. Pat gave chase a little way, shouting, "Come back wid me sheep's head, ye robber, ye!" but after a stiff run had to give in, dead-beat, when he consoled himself with the remark, "Niver moind; he hasn't got the resate to make it ready."

☞ "If Smith undertakes to pull my ears," said Jones, "he will just have his hands full, now." The crowd looked at the man's ears and thought so too.

Young Folks' Column.

Little Brown Hands.

BY MARY H. KNOUT.

They drive home the cows from the pasture,
Up through the long shadowy lane,
Where the quail whistles loud in the wheat field
That is yellow with ripening grain;
They find in the thick waving grasses,
Where the scarlet-lipped strawberry grows,
They gather the earliest snow-drops,
And the first crimson buds of the rose.

They toss the hay in the meadow,
They gather the elder-bloom white,
They find where the dusky grapes purple
In the soft-tinted October light.
They know where the apples hang ripest,
And are sweeter than Italy's wines,
They know where the fruit hangs the thickest,
On the long, thorny blackberry vines.

They gather the delicate seaweeds,
And build tiny castles of sand;
They pick up the beautiful seashells—
Fairy barks that have drifted to land.
They wave from the tall, rocking tree-tops,
Where the oriole's hammock-nest swings,
And at night-time are folded in slumber
By a song that a fond mother sings.

Those who toil bravely are strongest;
The humble and poor become great;
And from those brown-handed children
Shall grow mighty rulers of state.
The pen of the author and statesman,
The noble and wise of the land,
The sword, and chisel, and pallette,
Shall be held in the little brown hand.

Little Sailor Jack.

A TRUE STORY.

My dear little folks, I am going to tell you about something that happened a few weeks ago near my own home in the North.

Perhaps some of you have heard of the Islands of Orkney. They lie to the north of Scotland, and are surrounded by a very wild sea; sometimes, when the wind blows, the sea lashes itself with a white fury, and tears round the high rocky sides of the islands, tossing up its white foam, and shrieking and groaning as if it were very angry and hungry indeed. Then the huge columns of spray look like great arms tossing themselves about, and waiting to catch anything that comes near them